

# PERFECT PAIRING

## DANIEL SCHEFFLER

EXPERIENCES WINE  
EXCELLENCE AND  
WATCH-MAKING  
PERFECTION IN THE  
NAPA VALLEY

**W**atch brand A. Lange & Söhne (pronounced 'ah LANG-eh unt ZURN-neh') boasts

an understated elegance that downplays the delicate mastery of its magnificent creations. The German watchmaker has been producing some of the world's finest watches and timepieces since 1845, when it became renowned for its excellent pocket watches and the oversized wrist watches donned by German airforce pilots in the Second World War.

The company ceased operating after the war, but in 1990, after the East German government collapsed, it was resurrected by the founder's great-grandson, Walter Lange, and restored with assistance from leading Swiss watch manufacturers IWC and Jager Le Coultre.

Keeping to traditional watch-manufacturing processes, most Lange watches contain mechanical rather than quartz movements and are created from gold or platinum. Grandson of the founder,



Ferdinand A. Lange, Walter develops, produces and assembles the watch movements himself. These exceptional timepieces are distinctive and very different from their Swiss counterparts. In fact, they have been described as quite austere in comparison.

Today the company creates a variety of watches, both manual and automatic,

as well as some complicated creations. Each masterfully created timepiece has an inherent artistry that makes it stand out from the crowd. And this is why the brand was such a favourite at the 2013 Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie in Geneva in January this year. At the show, A. Lange & Söhne revealed their wares with little pomp and

lots of substance, a big difference from many of their brazen competitors.

Every September, the Lange Akademie creates a unique watch and wine event, where they unveil their current masterpieces to avid watch geeks and the media in Meadowood estate in California's lush Napa Valley. The setting is not only idyllic; this historic

winemaking area produces some of the best wines in the world, which makes it an ideal location from which to showcase these exquisite timepieces.

Guests stay at the exquisite Meadowood property and learn all about both watchmaking and wines. They also find out all about Lange and its history, savour stunning food and enjoy tours of the

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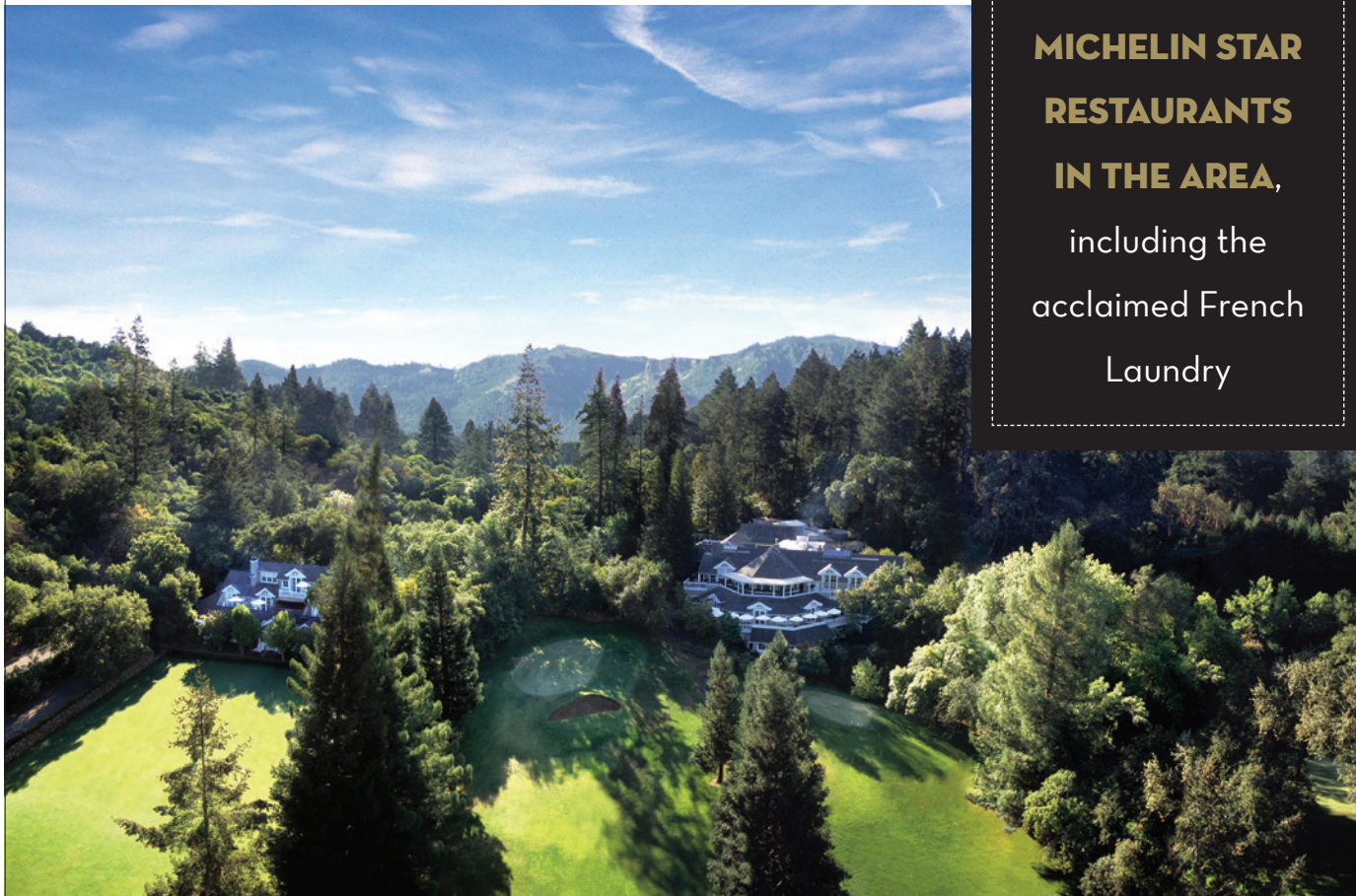


winery. A highlight of the event is dinner at two of the three-Michelin star restaurants in the area, including the acclaimed French Laundry. Established in 1978 in Yountville, the restaurant was transformed by chef Thomas Keller into a 3 Michelin Star establishment in 1994. Guests are given a choice of two different nine-course tasting

menus, neither of which use the same ingredient twice. The food is French with contemporary American influences and the acclaim is always stupendous.

What a fitting way in which to introduce exceptional watches! The 2013 selection included a number of stand-outs, which are described on page 41.

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#### GRAND LANGE 1

Pared down in elegant black, this watch boasts an off-centre dial configuration, an outsize date and three-day movement. The Lange 1 launched 18 years ago and featured a slimmer profile and totally new calibre. In this updated version, the 72-hour power reserve is still intact but with a single mainspring barrel. A white gold case, black dial and black crocodile strap create a chic statement while the lavish hand-decoration movement components are distinctive Lange characteristics.



#### 1815 UP/DOWN

The 1815 in the watch's name is a reference to the year in which the Lange founder, Ferdinand A. Lange was born – a way to celebrate the brand's long-standing history. This watch boasts a specific three-day movement and a power-reserve mechanism; its traditional display of AUF for fully wound and AB for fully unwound date back to a company patent from 1879. The watch contains 245 parts, is finished by hand and the calibre features some of Lange's most intricate details, including gold chatons secured with blued screws and winder wheels decorated with solarisation visibly integrated into the plate.



#### SAXONIA ANNUAL CALENDAR IN PLATINUM

What debuted in pink and white gold has now gone platinum. But what really makes this watch so intricate and different is the moon phase addition, which only needs to be corrected by one day every 122 years. A self-winding SAX-O-MAT calibre and patented Zero Reset function make for easy time setting. The sapphire-crystal caseback shows off the finished movement – all parts singularly decorated and finished by hand. But most spectacular of all is the master engraver's artistic signature, tucked away under the classic screw balance, which is what makes each watch completely unique.



#### GRAND COMPLICATION

The most exclusive of all the timepieces, the Grand Complication is limited to just six pieces and has the greatest detail. This includes a chiming mechanism with grand (*grande sonnerie*) and small strike (*petit sonnerie*), a minute repeater, split-second chronograph with minute counter and flying second and, of course, a perpetual calendar with moon phase display. This watch is pure mastery. The face that conceals this complex movement is contained in a white enamel dial with Arabic numerals and contains a railway-track minute scale and four subsidiary dials. The heart of this manually wound movement is a balance that beats with a frequency of 18 000 semi-oscillations per hour. Created as a tribute to Ferdinand A. Lange, who established the brand's Saxon watchmaking heritage, the watch incorporates a Glashütte lever escapement based on one of the founder's early inventions. 