

STYLEWATCH COLUMN

ALL-WEATHER FRIEND

Meet the meteorological Genie for your wrist.



From as early as 300BC, during the ancient Chinese civilisation, accurate weather forecasting has been an obsession for mankind. From the use of elaborate tall altars by high priests to complicated computer-based models adopted by top scientists, weather forecasting is a challenging science that's very relevant to the social environment of human beings. At times, early warnings of extreme weather have been essential to protecting both life and property.

Today, with the technological advancements and breakthroughs, one doesn't need to go through extreme rituals or the academic route to determine the weather. Even if internet connectivity is down, one can still predict the climate with just one look at your favourite wristwatch—and yes, it is 100 percent mechanical. For those who haven't heard of the brand, it's understandable, as it is this year's latest novelty from Baselworld 2013.

Breva is the result of the partnership between clothing entrepreneur Vincent Dupontreue and legendary movement maker Jean-François Mojon. For those unfamiliar with Mojon's CV, he is also the creator behind last year's prize-winning HYT, MB&F Legacy Machine 1, and Urban Jurgensen P8 movements.

It is rumoured that the foundation of this partnership started in 2010 when Dupontreue was inspired by "La Breva", a warm southern wind that contributes to the microclimate around Lake Como in northern Italy, while he was on holiday in the area. Unlike most other founders, he doesn't seek to pursue the perfect timepiece but rather the creation of new boundaries where other horological houses dare not.

Above and below:
Sneak peeks of the
Breva Genie 01.

Genie 01 took a painstaking three years of high-tech construction led by Mojon before this magical meteorological genie was squeezed into a 44.7MM-wide-and-15.6MM-high wristwatch. It is only available in a total of 55 pieces each for the white-gold and pink-gold versions, and start from RM480,000.

To begin with, the Genie allows the wearer to assess the weather by monitoring two elements—the altitude and changes in air pressure. The crown located at two o'clock sets the altitude dial to match the local elevation, while the air valve at four o'clock permits a small amount of filtered air into the case for equalisation of air pressure for the purposes of weather prediction by the barometer unit located inside. The Aneroid capsules, completely empty of air and made of special patented "memory metal", expand and contract with changes in pressure, which transmit the changes in a series of readings to the movement's gear train, to provide the dial read-out of pressure change. In a nutshell, high pressure equates to sunny days, while low pressure means you better have your umbrella with you.

Imagine the shock and surprise when you become the weather prophet among your family and friends with a 65-hour-power-reserve Genie on your wrist. Of course, the priceless look on their faces when you mention the cost will definitely be an Esquire moment to remember.—ZENTRIX CHIU

