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BERTOLUCCI STRIA II

B

by Stuart Leuthner

ertolucci was founded by Remo Bertolucci, an engineer who married into an established Swiss watchmaking family. When he launched his company in 1987, Bertolucci set out to combine his Italian sense of style with precision Swiss watchmaking. His first line, the Pulchra (Latin for beautiful), featured a bracelet inspired by the smooth pebbles Remo found on the Mediterranean seashore when he was growing up. The Pulchra was followed by the Vir, but Remo was badly injured in a motorcycle accident 1999, and

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the family sold the company. When the new owners suffered financial setbacks, it appeared the brand would become another horological footnote.

Four years later, under the leadership of Philippe Belais, Bertolucci was reborn and has since forged a reputation for distinctive timepieces exhibiting daring and innovative design. Each new line creates its own stir and identifies the watch's owner as someone who wants to be associated with identifiable, daring, upscale and timeless pieces of timekeeping art.

Bertolucci's Distinction collection incorporates the elegance, purity of line and subtle refinement lovers of fine timepieces and fashion have come to expect from Bertolucci. Launched in 2009, the Stria was inspired by the shells found in ocean shore tide pools. Featuring a dial in black opaline or natural mother-of-pearl, offset in a case decorated with delicate ripples, the watch was presented on an elegant satin bracelet. The pure shape of the case was accentuated by a clever setting mechanism incorporated into the case back, eliminating the need for a conventional crown.

A year later, the Stria Luce, limited to five pieces, was introduced. The front of the case is embellished with precious stones carved to resemble fossils of ancient sea creatures, surrounded by diamonds. The mother-of-pearl dial has a guilloché sunrays design. As an added touch, the case front can be turned, providing the wearer with the opportunity to enjoy the various decorations on the face.

For 2011, Bertolucci presents the latest addition to this provocative line — the Stria II. Crafted in polished stainless steel, the case measures 42mm in diameter. Water resistant to 30 meters, the watches are powered by a Swiss ETA quartz movement fitted with six jewels and providing a battery life of fifty months. As Bertolucci's designers did with the Luce, they have provided the timepieces with an element of surprise. A rotating bezel unveils hidden surprises and jeweled adornment.


The Stria II is available in two colorful models, one pink, the other blue. The pink watch's dramatic peek-a-boo bezel is set with fifty-four white diamonds (0.17 carats) and 124 pink sapphires (1.82 carats), giving it a subtle graduated effect. The sapphire crystal is treated with anti-reflective treatment and the discreet crown is located at four o'clock. Hours are indicated by two Arabic nu-

merals and two indexes, the latter set with twelve single-cut diamonds (0.052 carats). A Bertolucci "B", polished and rhodium plated, is applied at twelve o'clock.

The watch is presented on a shiny pink genuine alligator leather strap with interchangeable spring bars, secured with a stainless steel pin buckle.

Set with 54 white diamonds (0.17 carats) and 124 blue sapphires (1.82 carats), the blue Stria II features the same color graduation — fading this time from blue to white. Otherwise, the watch's specifications are identical to the pink model except for the substitution of a shiny blue genuine alligator strap.

The black Stria II is available in two models, one with a sparkling rotating bezel set with 178 full-cut diamonds (1.72 carats) and the other treated with guilloché decoration recalling the shell motif of earlier models of the Stria. The diamond version's dial, black opalin with a shell pattern, features two Arabic numerals and two indexes set with twelve single-cut diamonds (0.052 carats) and the Bertolucci "B". The second model marks the hours with four large and eight small Arabic numerals, rhodium plated and polished. The diamond model is fitted with a shiny black alligator strap with interchangeable spring bars and a stainless steel pin buckle. A shiny grey calf leather strap complements the non-diamond version.

If you would like more information about the Stria II, or other Bertolucci watches, they can be reached at 866-706-6271. 

Opposite page, top left, the blue Stria II is set with fifty-four white diamonds and 124 blue sapphires. Hours are indicated by two Arabic numbers and two indexes, the latter set with twelve single-cut diamonds.

Opposite page, far right, recalling the shell motif of earlier models of the Stria, this black model is fitted with a fluted rotating bezel.

Opposite page, bottom, set with 178 full-cut diamonds, the black Stria II diamond version is presented on a shiny black genuine alligator strap.

