

BEAU

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Start your engines

TAG Heuer is back as F1's official timekeeper
– and celebrating with a circuit of new watches

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When the flag dropped on the start of the first Formula 1 race of the season in Melbourne, instead of the familiar Rolex logo that has prevailed at circuits around the world since the firm became F1's official timekeeper in 2013, crash barriers, foot bridges, gantries and pit walls were festooned with branding promoting TAG Heuer.

The historic watchmaker – which can trace its roots in sports timekeeping right back to 1916, when it created the first stopwatch capable of recording elapsed time down to one 100th of a second – is the key player in a multi-brand deal, confirmed in January, that now makes TAG Heuer's owner, LVMH, F1's principal global partner.

The partnership exposed LVMH's stable of blue-chip brands to an estimated global television audience of 1.5 billion and a fanbase of 750 million. LVMH counts its Moët Hennessy drinks division

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Make a splash

Vilebrequin's latest collection is full of playfully chic swimwear and accessories

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Hop to it

A visit to the world's most remote post office in Antarctica – where letters take weeks to arrive

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All together

Multi-chef collaborations are the new way to experience a meal that promises to be unlike any other

P.03 STYLE Get ready for spring with our edit of travel-inspired wardrobe pieces and accessories • P.08 MOTORING Land Rover's new Defender takes on all terrain
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Motoring

Dynamic driving

OCTA, the maxed-out Land Rover Defender, has high-performance off-road nous on every terrain

The OCTA is a Defender on steroids. We've come a long way since 1948, when the Land Rover Series 1 was launched. What started as a utilitarian, agricultural vehicle is now reaching for the stars with a luxury high-performance model priced at over £145,000 and £160,800 in the case of the Edition One of the OCTA. If you're wondering about the name, it's a nod to that toughest of minerals, the diamond and the crystal's octahedral shape. The OCTA sits at the top of the Defender model range and is quite visibly the head of the family.

Being 68mm wider and 28mm taller than the standard car, its blistered wheel arches make way for massive 838mm tyres on lovely, purposeful-looking 20-inch wheels. You can up the bling with a set of 22-inch wheels, though they'll compromise off-road performance, which is where this car really excels. "Chopped" carbon fibre accents on the bonnet are one of the other exterior visual differentiators to this model, offered at launch in subtle military hues of Faroe Green and Carpathian Grey. Quad exhausts at the rear complete the OCTA's resolute look.

Of course, the bite has to match the bark. Under the skin, this new OCTA is powered by a mighty 4.4-litre twin-turbo V8 developing 635bhp under your right foot, which would have made supercar headlines a few years ago. The real skill is how to lay down this power – in the OCTA's case, on every surface type. Ultimate capability is the OCTA's USP. It monsters everything put in front of it: gravel, snow, rocks, sand dunes... and racetracks.

It has all of the multiple terrain modes you'll find on the regular Defender, but a hot button on the steering wheel gives quick access to Dynamic mode for quick tarmac driving and then OCTA mode for maximum attack in the rough stuff. On the road, the OCTA Defender is impressively fast, accelerating from 0 to 60mph in just 3.8 seconds, and it can reach a limited top speed of 155mph if equipped with the all-season Michelin tyre option. If you want to get serious off-road, you'll opt for the triple-ply All-Terrain Goodyear Duratrac tyres, which limits the top speed to 99mph.

Inside, you'll be sitting in Land Rover's new "Body and Soul" seats with built-in speakers and

vibro-acoustic technology, which move with your music selection or one of the preprogrammed wellness settings. From the comfort of this cabin, you can bring out all of your inner Sébastien Loeb without breaking a sweat. In OCTA mode (basically "fun time" mode with power biased to the rear and roll stability disabled) you can throw this beefed-up Defender at all the jumps and dips. And you can splash around that bit more as the wading depth has increased from 900mm to 1,000mm. Behind the wheel, you feel utterly indestructible, able to drive through almost anything.

Most performance SUVs try their best to not feel like SUVs. The OCTA Defender is not like that. It is built to be the ultimate SUV that will go quickly and confidently on all surfaces like a rally car – more specifically, a Dakar rally raider. Shortly after the OCTA's release, Land Rover announced its plans to participate in the world's toughest race, the Dakar, with the Defender OCTA repping the brand in this legendary competition. On first impression, it's up for the challenge.

From £145,300; landrover.co.uk



Yachting

Words: David Green, Bryony Smith



NEW WAVES

J Craft takes on Palm Beach with a luxe designer collaboration, and its most advanced Torpedo model yet

For yachting enthusiasts, there is perhaps no more highly anticipated event than that held at downtown West Palm Beach. Known as the playground for high society, the area in South Florida draws an affluent crowd seeking the very best of leisure that money can buy. What better setting, then, for one of the most prestigious boat shows in the United States?

Attracting more than 55,000 attendees annually, the Palm Beach International Boat Show is a five-day event, which this year added an exclusive preview day to accommodate the growing number of visitors and exhibitors. One boatbuilder that always draws a crowd is the Swedish luxury company J Craft, having the most prominent stand at the show. Making its full Palm Beach boat show debut back in 2023, J Craft was listed by the *Robb Report* as one of the most exciting new yachts

Above the J Craft team of 12 in Visby. Right the 21st J Craft Torpedo, BaBeBi, is designed to take on the open ocean



“A BESPOKE APPROACH IS, AFTER ALL, A KEY PART OF J CRAFT’S BRAND PHILOSOPHY”

exhibited and it's clear to see why. Unlike the row upon row of white vessels made from composite materials, the J Craft Torpedo emanates old-school character, expressing the type of Riviera romance that works whether you are in the South of France or Florida. Cossetting leather, teak and high-gloss mahogany are just a taste of what distinguished the Torpedo from the other 800 boats on show this year.

Much of this is down to the craftsmanship that goes into each J Craft vessel. Hand-built on Sweden's Baltic Sea island of Gotland, J Craft's Torpedoes feature cultivated mahogany veneer seamlessly blended with the most cutting-edge technology: a fully recyclable, vacuum-infused, fibreglass hull and deck, a rudderless Volvo Penta IPS pod system, complete with a joystick for close-quarter, effortless manoeuvring and smooth cruising, touchscreen controls, a modular radar, dynamic positioning systems, gyroscopic stabilisers and even remote steering. It all adds up to a seafaring vessel enabling the sort of navigation of the open water that J Craft's Viking ancestors would approve of. With the Torpedo's open-sea certification, crossings from Miami to the Bahamas, St Tropez to Sardinia and Corsica to Mallorca are all well within range.

This year's J Craft exhibit included the J Craft Torpedo *Aquila III*, its most advanced Torpedo yet, as well as the J Craft Torpedo *Natalia*, which has undergone a complete refit by J Craft's new US service partner Hinckley Yachts, appointed to take care of all of the Swedish firm's aftercare and warranties in the USA. Also previewed at Palm Beach was J Craft's new collaboration with Dunhill: a bespoke, modular drinks cabinet/trunk made from leather, that can slot into your Torpedo, your car or, indeed, your home. Ingenious and luxurious, it speaks of the British firm's origins as a maker of engineered accessories for the early motorists of the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

This is by no means the boatmaker's first collaboration with world-class designers. J Craft's new partnership with Italian textile house Fortuny means that owners can enjoy custom handwoven fabrics and bespoke interiors by Sarah Magness, founder of the New York design firm Studio Magness, who will work alongside the brand.

A bespoke approach is, after all, a key part of J Craft's brand philosophy. Each boat is unique, having been handmade and custom-specced by its owner. With only two boats produced a year, the result is a yacht created to a superior level of artistry and craftsmanship and with passion by the small, handpicked workforce in Gotland, Sweden.

j-craftboats.com