



Win race. Get watch. Feel smug

There's a long waitlist for Daytonas. Unless you have a queue-jump...

If you want a brand-new Rolex Cosmograph Daytona (and quite frankly, who doesn't?), patience is a virtue. Mainly because the waiting list for this little-over £8,000 watch is up to five years long. And that's just for the 'basic' stainless-steel model. Seriously, Bugatti Chirons are easier to come by.

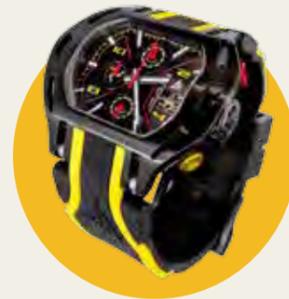
That said, for a select few there is a quicker way into Daytona ownership. Much quicker. All it requires is a flight to France or the US, an incredibly fast, reliable car, a team of perhaps 50 very intelligent people and a substantial amount of talent. Talent enough to win one of the world's two great motor races: the Le Mans 24 Hours, or the Daytona 24 Hours.

Rolex has been officially involved with Daytona since 1991 and with Le Mans since 2001. Every year since, it's given the winners a Daytona – the world's best-known watchmaker's best-known watch – with an inscribed caseback to properly commemorate their victory.

These race-winner's Daytonas are among the rarest and most sought-after modern-day models – because though they might look quite ordinary, you simply cannot buy them. This has led



Want one? Join the queue. Or just win a tough endurance race

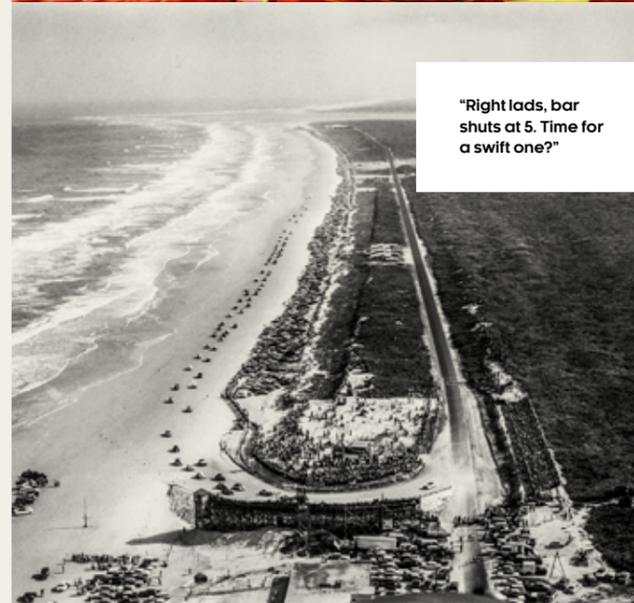


to speculation that some drivers are racing as much for the watch as they are the honour of, y'know, actually winning. Five-time Daytona 24 Hours winner Hurley Haywood said it himself: "Many of these guys out there are multimillionaires – they're not here because they're getting paid a lot of money. They want to win this watch."

Rolex is by no means the only watchmaker doing this 'win race, get watch' thing, though none other does it to quite the same degree, and none has obtained such legendary status. **Wryst**, for example, has sponsored the Isle of Man TT since 2015. You can actually buy its so-named special edition, but IOM winners get one free. **TAG Heuer** presents the winner of the Indy 500 with a watch, and before them Maurice Lacroix did the same. And of course there's the relationship between **Chopard** and the Mille Miglia.



"Right lads, bar shuts at 5. Time for a swift one?"



1969 OMEGA
CHRONOSTOP
DRIVER'S GENEVE

Introduced by Omega in 1968, the Driver's Chronostop was designed to be worn under the wrist, not on top of it, with a dial rotated through 90 degrees to make it easier to read with your hands on the steering wheel. **£1,200 est.**



c.1970 TUDOR
OYSTER CHRONO
'MONTECARLO'

The whole point of Tudor is to give Rolex-like quality, but at a much more accessible price. Enter the 7159 – a lighter-hearted, colourful go at a chrono for parsimonious Daytona fans. Still cheaper than a vintage Daytona, even at... **£11,000 est.**



c.1964 BREITLING
TOP TIME

Top Times were supposed to be entry-level luxury watches for young blokes. Marketed as "instrument panels" for the wrist, these watches soon found favour with drivers like Jim Clark. 007 even wore one in *Dr No* – naturally his was a bit special. **£1,500–£3,000 est.**



1972 SEIKO 6139
'POGUE'

Everyone knows the Speedmaster went to the Moon – but it was actually this Seiko that was the first automatic chrono in space, on the wrist of American Colonel William Pogue. His was yellow, and yours should be too. How brilliantly Seventies. **£500–£800 est.**

The best vintage driver's watches...

...you've never heard of