

ISTANBUL: JIHAD'S GATEWAY?

Esquire

MAN AT HIS BEST

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SO CAN WE TRUST THIS GUY AS THE NEW BATMAN?

PORTFOLIO

IF YOU'RE GOING TO INVEST IN ONE COMPANY THEN MAKE IT THIS ONE

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WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT THE UAE PRO LEAGUE

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THE NEW RULES OF STYLE...

(INCLUDING THIS HAT) →



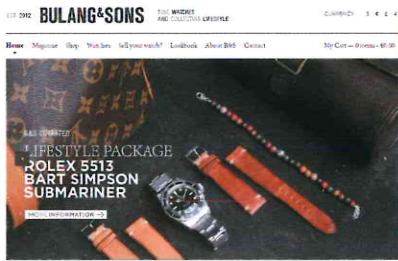
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Confessions of a Watch Addict

BY SAM TRUMAN



BULANGANDSONS.COM

Vintage cool is the best way to sum up this site. It's run by a gentleman named Bernhard Bulang and his boutique online store offers a fine selection of vintage pieces from the likes of Rolex and Omega. You can be assured that the watches here are very carefully selected, and what I particularly like about them is that they curate a complete vintage package. So, for example, you can purchase a 5513 Rolex Submariner paired with a selection of straps and perhaps an ultra-cool vintage bag from Louis Vuitton or Filson. Bulang also has another site, 100percent-rolex.blogspot.nl, which is a great resource for vintage watches.



HODINKEE.COM

Hodinkee will keep you up to date with everything watch-related, from a roundup of the best watches at auctions around the globe to reviews of new releases. You're often given a history lesson, which will make you re-think your preconceptions of a brand or a particular watch. My favourite articles are the short video interviews, which might feature someone famous in the industry or someone you would never imagine to be a watch collector. It's really interesting to see what these guys have in their collections. In addition, they have guest columnists, such as the musician, John Mayer, and there's something new every day.

THIS MONTH WATCHES ON THE INTERNET

HQMILTON.COM

HQ Milton carries a huge inventory of vintage timepieces, specialising in Rolexes, and is happy to ship from its San Francisco base to the UAE. I know all this as it is where I bought my latest vintage GMT. There is new stock coming every couple of days, so there is always plenty to choose from.



10PASTTEN.COM

This site curates hard-to-find vintage watches where everything is just right, which is not easy to do when dealing with decades-old watches. Eric, who runs 10 Past Ten, has been referred to by Christie's as an expert on vintage Rolexes and he is also the owner of vintagerolexforum.com. It's the single most visited vintage Rolex-orientated website on the Internet.

Ian Blowers Jewellers



BLOWERS-JEWELLERS.CO.UK

For modern new and used watches there's nobody better than Ian Blowers Jewellers. There is new stock every day, ranging from a simple Omega to the most complicated AP. I don't think I have seen as many Panerai or steel Daytonas for sale in one place, and everything is also kept in stock. Over the years, I have bought more than a couple of watches from here and had them shipped out to Dubai. This is my go-to site for modern watches.



NBTIMES.CO

Based in Hong Kong, you will only really find vintage Rolexes here, but the selection is good. I got my first vintage watch from here — a 1680 Submariner from 1978. The owner of nbTimes, Ben, seems to have a knack of finding watches that have not been overly polished, which for me is a real plus when buying a vintage piece. 🕒

WATCH FORUMS

These are a great way of connecting with fellow watch addicts, and the two that get the most of my time are watchprosite.com and timezone.com. Both have been around for quite some time and have a high volume of new posts and topics every day. They also have separate brand forums with their own moderators to keep things in check, and there are posts for things like, 'What are you wearing at the weekend?', where you get to see what like-minded people from all over the world are wearing or doing. It's interesting to see the questions and thoughts that this hobby of ours provokes. It reminds me that I am not the only one who thinks too much about what could be considered a trivial watch-related conundrum. The sales forums are interesting and have a wide selection of watches for sale, but always be careful as scammers lurk everywhere, even with well-monitored sites. Remember, if it's too good to be true then it probably is. And of course there is esquireme.com, which has a great section devoted to watches.