

Louis Vuitton & De Bethune Debut €4 Million Titanium Clock Masterpiece

Published on 10 Feb 2026 | By IFI Correspondent



French luxury house Louis Vuitton, in partnership with Swiss independent watchmaker De Bethune, has unveiled one of the most extraordinary creations in contemporary high-end horology: a titanium **Symphatique clock** paired with a limited-edition mechanical wristwatch. Priced at roughly **€4 million (about \$4.7 million)** for the complete set, the launch pushes the boundaries of craftsmanship, engineering and exclusivity in the luxury world.

This release forms part of the **LVDB-03 Louis Varius Project**, a venture combining Louis Vuitton's design language with De Bethune's mechanical sophistication to redefine how traditional timepieces and clocks relate to one another in the 21st century.

What Is a Sympathique Clock — and Why Titanium?

At the heart of the project lies a revival of the centuries-old "Sympathique" concept — a master clock designed to automatically wind and set a companion watch. Originally pioneered in the 18th century by legendary watchmaker Abraham-Louis Breguet, the Sympathique mechanism has rarely been revisited due to its complex engineering. The Louis Vuitton x De Bethune clock updates this idea with modern materials and design while maintaining its historical purpose.

Crafted chiefly from **titanium**, the clock features a substantial case weighing around 10 kg with meteorite marquetry and other meticulous decorative elements. Beyond its functional role, the piece serves as a sculptural work of high horology that bridges mechanical ingenuity and aesthetic refinement.

The Wristwatch Companion: LVDB-03 GMT Louis Varius

Accompanying the monumental clock is an equally rare wristwatch — the **LVDB-03 GMT Louis Varius**. Limited to **12 units globally**, this timepiece boasts a deep blued titanium case with platinum lugs, a manual-wind movement developed by De Bethune, and practical complications including a **GMT second time zone** and **day-night indicator**.

The dial reflects astronomical inspiration, featuring a night-sky motif with white gold stars and a rotating sphere that indicates day and night — blending technical complexity with artistic design. Each watch is delivered in a bespoke **titanium Louis Vuitton trunk**, echoing the maison's heritage in luxury travel goods.

Exclusivity and Craftsmanship

Production of this project is ultra-limited: only **10 stand-alone watches** will be sold, and **two complete sets** — each including a Sympathique clock, a watch, and a custom trunk — are available at the full €4 million price point.

Collectors and enthusiasts view the LVDB-03 collaboration as a bold statement in the luxury watch industry — merging centuries-old horological traditions with contemporary artistry and material innovation. The result is a creation that prioritises both mechanical storytelling and scarcity, making it one of the most talked-about releases in haute horlogerie circles.

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