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of the 41.5mm Octo case is elaborately crafted with each component, with the middle, bezel and case undergoing a succession of 46 operations before assemblage. The case itself boasts 110 facets, meticulously finished by hand with polished and brushed satin finishes.

The sun-drenched Grecian site fails to obscure the face of the watch. The scratch-resistant sapphire with double-sided anti-reflection treatment casually deflects the light, revealing the in-house-crafted black-lacquer polished dial. It features individually brushed and polished, hand-applied indices, Arabic numerals at the six and 12 o'clock positions, and a semi-instant date window at the three o'clock position.

Clinging to the man's wrist is the black alligator leather strap with a double-blade 18K pink gold folding clasp, which is also available in steel. The bold and masculine contours of the hide fit the curves like a natural skin while securing the watchcase in place. The automatically wound mechanical movement, with a 50-hour power reserve housed in the case, ticks away as the man continues circling the Pentelic clocktower.

The horological mastery of the ancient building leaves the gentleman in awe. He completes the tour and turns to leave; his Octo Soldat catches the sunlight and glints in homage to its shapely ancestor. ■

Clockwise
From Top Left
 Bulgari's Octo Soldat in steel and 18K pink gold; there are numerous steps involved in assembling the watch; the many faces of the Octo Soldat; from the drawing board



Homage to the Ancients

BULGARI honours timelessness with the Octo Soldat, a tribute to the eight-sided geometric marvel

A well-heeled gentleman stands at the entrance to the Tower of the Winds in Athens. He walks around the marble structure, taking in the oldest-known octagonal building in the world, built circa the second century BC. Eight sundials line the exterior of each clocktower wall, beneath friezes of the eight wind deities that were worshipped in ancient times. The horologion stands formidably in a desert of ruins, escaping the ravages of time – true to its symbolic eight-sided shape, emblematic of eternity. The Mediterranean sun tells the hour on the sundials. The man raises his hand to shield his eyes from the glare, making out the time illuminated by the harsh sun. The same hour is reflected on his wristwatch, the Bulgari Octo Soldat, which also mimics the structure at the ancient site with an octagonal case.

The geometric figure of the octagon is inextricably bound with the history of civilisations and cultures. Rich in meaning, the shape is symbolic of balance, harmony, power and eternity, all trademarks of Bulgari's Octo collection. Such is the case of the Octo Soldat, available in steel or 18K pink gold. The complex form

