

VACHERON CONSTANTIN

The Overseas Tour

Photos: © Courtesy of Vacheron Constantin

In January 2016 Vacheron Constantin announced an exceptional collaboration with a legendary, award-winning photojournalist, Steve McCurry, in order to illustrate the Overseas Collection. McCurry's work is guided by a sense of wonderment with regard to the planet and the people that he meets. His relationship to human beings is unique, as is his relationship with time. He has indeed made the latter his greatest ally, as someone constantly seeking out "the unexpected, the moment of serendipity, thus enabling accidental discoveries of interesting things one was not looking for."

The collaboration resulted in a distinctive perspective on the world, as seen through the lens of this great master of images. Like the 12 hours of the dial, McCurry immortalised 12 unexpected locations, exquisitely capturing the essence of each of the destinations.

The spirit of travel at Vacheron Constantin

With their casual elegance and practicality, the new Overseas watches embody the spirit of travel in all its glory, an ethos that hones a sharper vision ceaselessly enhanced by new discoveries. The Collection reflects the essence of modern fine watchmaking and is dedicated to comfort, the ideal companions of modern travellers who are steadily enriched by every successive encounter and every fresh discovery. This openness to the world lies at the very core of the philosophy of excellence cultivated by the oldest watch manufacturer since its founding in 1755 in Geneva. Resolutely looking toward faraway horizons right from its very beginnings, the Maison that successfully established a presence on four continents in the 18th century already, has built its expansion by exploring the planet. Its archives contain historical records named "Rencontre" in which sales that took place abroad were kept. Its fame has thus been shaped through these encounters taking place in increasingly remote locations over more than 260 years of history and uninterrupted expertise.

The perspective of eternity

The final six destinations on the Vacheron Constantin Overseas Tour included the Astronomical Observatory in Paris, Red Square from the GUM roof in Moscow, Crawick Multiverse in Scotland, Chefchaouen in Morocco, Samarkand in Uzbekistan and Lalibela in Ethiopia. These destinations share a certain rarity and an unusual dimension, while reflecting the human ability to imagine, create and transform. The result is an array of images providing an opportunity to adopt a different perspective on the world.

Above and beyond their beauty, the shots reflect the spirit that has been driving Vacheron Constantin for 260 years. Rigorous discipline, patience, creativity, movement, transmission and openness to the world are just some of the cornerstones that place both the Manufacture and Steve McCurry's journey within the perspective of eternity.

The 12 Unexpected Locations

Mexico - Aqueduct of Padre Tembleque
United States - Grand Central Terminal, New York
India - Chand Baori Stepwell
China - Leshan Giant Buddha
Japan - Tsurunoyu Onsen
Geneva - Manufacture Vacheron Constantin
Morocco - Chefchaouen
Scotland - Crawick Multiverse
Ethiopia - Lalibela
Uzbekistan - Samarkand
Russia - Moscow Red Square Seem From the Gum Roof
France - Paris Astronomical Observatory

Paris Astronomical Observatory: time for conquest

The Paris Astronomical Observatory is the oldest in the world that is still in operation. Built in 1667, this centre of knowledge that witnessed the birth of new sciences such as geodesy and meteorology remains firmly closed to the public. Set in a lush green environment at the heart of Paris, its historical dome houses an astronomical telescope pointing towards the sky and drawing the visitor's gaze towards infinite expanses where time and space meet. "This was my first time entering the dome of an observatory. It was fascinating to have the opportunity to visit a place made possible by human curiosity and ingenuity. The Paris Observatory was technologically revolutionary for its time, and is still one of the largest astronomical centres of the world. The Overseas Tour itself is driven by the same curiosity about the world that is at the heart of this location." – Steve McCurry

Red Square seen from the GUM roof: Moscow: time for perspective

Overlooking one of the world's most famous squares, the GUM roof represents a technical and architectural feat. Built in 1893, its glass dome with monumental iron arches spans almost 2.5 hectares. Standing at the very top of its majestic vaults means enjoying the privilege of a unique perspective on the Red Square, almost

touching the bulb-shaped towers of Saint Basil's Cathedral, and feeling the vibrations of more than one thousand years of history, as well as an entire population.

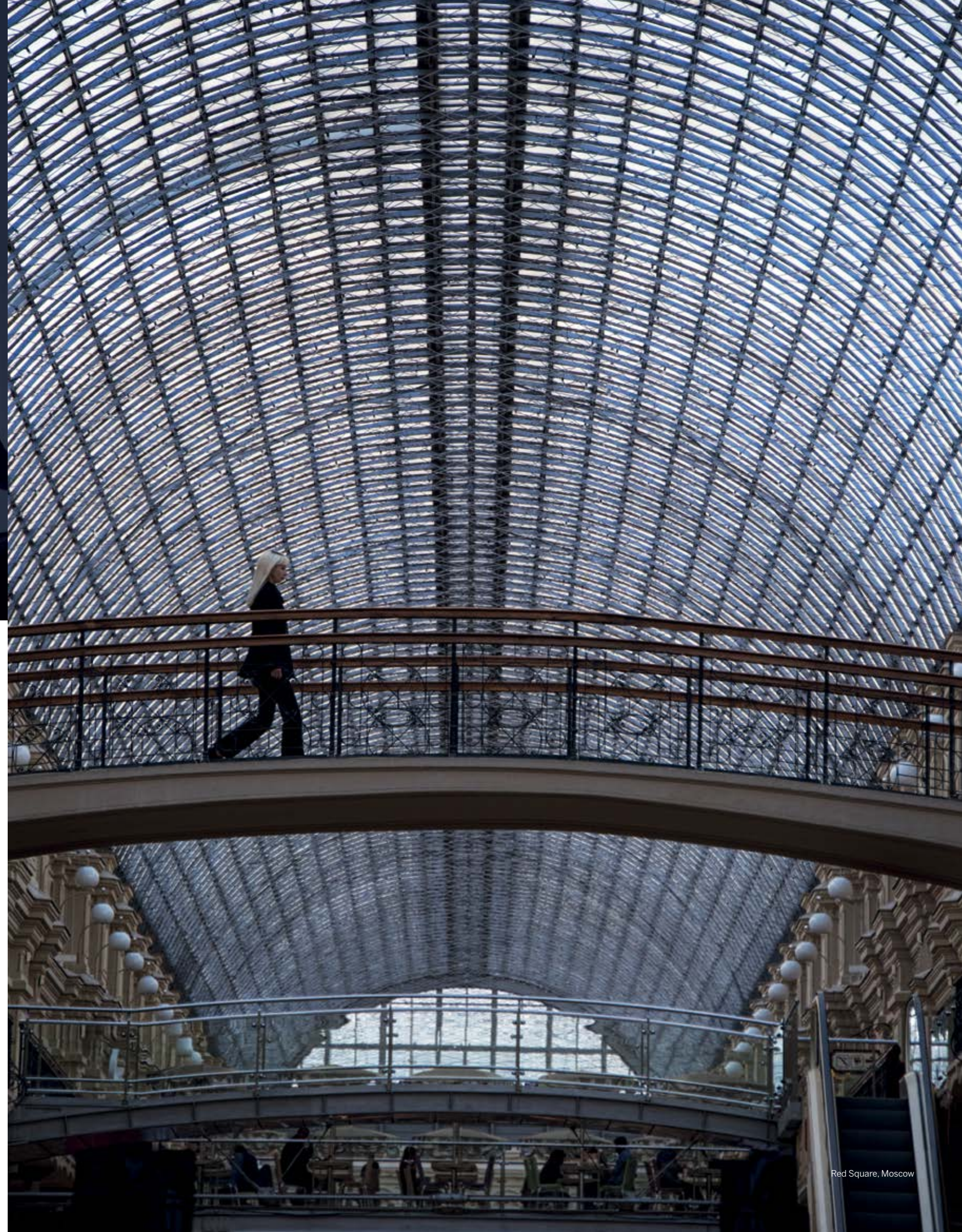
"Managing to shoot the Red Square from a new vantage point was made possible by the exceptional access granted to the GUM roof. The square topped by colourful steeples thus revealed itself in a truly unique way. Once night fell, this perspective took on a whole new and even more magical dimension when the GUM glass roof was lit up." – Steve McCurry

Crawick Multiverse, Scotland: time for inspiration

The Crawick Multiverse site is a gem nestling in the hills at the heart of the Dumfries region. The visionary architect and landscape artist Charles Jenks has transformed a former open cast coal mine into a landscape art design. The ecology of the site and the monoliths found there inspired its construction based on space, astronomy and cosmology. Extending an invitation to journey from the centre of the Earth to the furthestmost galaxies, it brings universes together through the unique and far-reaching perspective of its inspired creator.

"I was previously unaware of this location, and pleasantly surprised by its ancient mystique despite being a new installation. These man-made formations typify Scotland's great history of similar formations whose purpose are still unknown to us today. There is a cosmic feeling evoked by these structures." – Steve McCurry

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Red Square, Moscow



Chefchaouen, Morocco



Chefchaouen, Morocco: time for tradition

For almost 100 years, the inhabitants of this small town have been colouring it in blue. Whatever the explanation behind this tradition, it is perpetuated because locals found it beautiful and draw from it their identity and their distinctiveness, since no other village in the world features such a monochrome beauty, like an ocean in the desert.

"I have visited a similar blue location in India. There is a poetic story likening this blue city to the skies or heaven. Viewing the town at night from further away provides a magical vantage point where the warm-hued lights give a nice contrast to the blue-painted city." – Steve McCurry

Samarkand, Uzbekistan: time for confluence

Samarkand, which lies at a strategic geographical and cultural crossroads, on the Silk Route in the direction of China, is one of the most ancient inhabited cities of Central Asia. It was successively Greek, Persian, Turkish, Mongolian and Iranian, during the heyday of each of these civilisations. The mausoleums and other buildings of its necropolis are truly magnificent, graced with splendid shimmering ceramic decorations, ornate domes and all the magic of Middle Eastern art that has found its way through the ages to dazzle modern-day travellers.

"Having been there 10 years ago, I was familiar with the location. However, the timeless architecture still holds just as striking and iconic as it did when it was built around 2,500 years ago. The ornate designs and wondrous colours are a marvel to behold." – Steve McCurry

Lalibela, Ethiopia: time for symbolism

Carved out of rock at the top of a hill in the 13th century, Lalibela was built as a "new Jerusalem".

Its 11 buildings symbolise earthly and heavenly Jerusalem and even feature a trench representing the River Jordan. Simple, monolithic and free of any ornaments or statues. This strange rock-hewn site featuring a roof level with the ground invites travellers to enter a world of utter simplicity and humility.

"Lalibela has a great history, and is distinguishable by its churches which are cut out of solid stone from the top down. It's a unique structure not unlike the pyramids or medieval cathedrals. Though built 700 years ago, this location continues to be a point of pilgrimage today." – Steve McCurry ■ Lindsay Grubb

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Lalibela, Ethiopia



Samarkand, Uzbekistan