



**FIRST EDITION** Above: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry; right: The Big Pilot's Watch Perpetual Calendar Edition "Le Petit Prince" in red gold (\$51,200) is limited to 270 pieces. The somewhat more understated Pilot's Watch Mark XVII Edition "Le Petit Prince" in stainless steel (not pictured; \$5,400) has had 1,000 pieces produced.

**M**ILLIONS OF children and adults the world over have pored over the dreamy watercolor pages of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic novella *Le Petit Prince*, a fantastical tale of a marooned pilot, crash-landed in the Sahara, who meets a boy who has fallen to Earth from his asteroid home.

The French author was a reserve military pilot; he wrote and illustrated the manuscript in 1942 after escaping Nazi-occupied France and coming to America to try to persuade the U.S. government to enter World War II.

Seventy years later, Swiss watchmaker IWC Schaffhausen has honored the author-aviator with two limited-edition pilot timepieces, embellished with details from his timeless tale of friendship and loss, which has been translated into more than 270 languages. "With our long tradition of manufacturing pilot's watches, we feel that there are strong bonds that bind us to Antoine de Saint-Exupéry," explains IWC CEO Georges Kern.

## TIME FOR A PRINCE

*Swiss watchmaker IWC Schaffhausen aims for the stars with a literary-inspired timepiece*

The Big Pilot's Watch Perpetual Calendar Edition "Le Petit Prince" is a technical masterpiece. Among many other complications, it features a perpetual calendar movement constructed in such a way that it will not require adjustment until the year 2100. During that (leap) year, the watch will need to be reset once—and then will keep the date perfectly until 2499. Subtle details include a counterpoise in the form of a small star placed at the rear end of the second hand.

But the pièce de résistance is the timepiece's classic moon-phase display. A first for IWC's Big Pilot series, it is even ornamented by the Little Prince gazing out into the starry night from his tiny planetoid. The complication follows the moon's progression in the sky, from new to full to last quarter. The IWC design engineers calculated a one-day deviation for roughly every 577 years. So perhaps consider leaving a note for your heirs.

—DANIEL SCHEFFLER