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Sparta

Pen of the Year 2020

Since its first edition in 2003, the Pen of the Year has become synonymous with luxurious writing culture and the finest craftsmanship. This time, the design was inspired by the heroes of Sparta: an interplay between an indomitable aura, elegant strength and superior aesthetics.

An enduring myth

It was in the "Dark Ages" of antiquity that Sparta's star began to shine. Between 1050 and 800 BC, conquerors from the Dorian tribe settled the fertile south of the Greek Peloponnese and founded the city state of Sparta, which would later come to rival Athens in importance. While relatively small in terms of area and number of citizens, its influence and military power increased and even the powerful Persians were forced to surrender to King Leonidas' army. Sparta's dominance lasted until the end of the 4th century BC, but it is a fascinating myth that still endures today.

Steeled fighters

Even today, the adjective *Spartan* is synonymous with strict and hard, after all, the heroes of ancient Greece set universal standards in terms of discipline and austerity. Everything for the state and its forces: Based on this uncompromising commandment, even very young Lacedaemonians, as they were known, were faced with tests in sport, endurance and courage, with the bravest trained to be elite fighters who were always ready for action. They themselves had to purchase their elaborate armour as proof of absolute loyalty. These values of pride, honour and loyalty are also conveyed by the Pen of the Year: The seven rough diamonds adding up to 0.35 carats on its barrel are symbolic of the robustness and uniqueness of the bold Spartans. It is no coincidence that the word for diamond, the hardest natural material in the world, derives from this Greek word: "adamas" - invincible.

The perfect tool

At the latest, the myth of the invincible Spartan was born during the Persian Wars and the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC: King Leonidas unfortunately succumbed, but his army were triumphant in their defeat of the powerful enemy. In addition to their legendary bravery, the Greek heroes primarily owed their superiority to their combat clothing and equipment, made up of efficient and symbolic masterpieces. The protective armour was perfectly adapted to the body shape of the warriors; heavy shields, marked with a letter "Lambda" for Lacedaemonians, were brilliant for defence, as were the Corinthian helmets made from a single piece of bronze with a curved crest modelled on a proud horse's neck. The Pen of the Year 2020 was created in the style of the blacksmith's art used to make this armour, swords and shields as a perfect embodiment of durability, endurance and aesthetics.

Pen of the Year 2020 – Sparta and Sparta Black Edition

The myth of Sparta and its heroes lives on in the Pen of the Year 2020: The design, details and workmanship of the exclusive writing instruments were based on the armour and weapons of the Greek heroes. For example, the ruthenium-plated, matt, sandblasted barrel is reminiscent of the warriors' steel battle dress; its milled decoration harks back to the striped protective armour around the loins and its grip evokes the anatomically shaped forms of the breastplate. Inspired by the additional rivets reinforcing and refining the ancient armour, there are seven hand-applied rough diamonds adding up to 0.35 carats adorning the striking shaft and epitomising the robustness, strength and uniqueness of the bold Spartans.

Both the end piece and the cap of the Pen of the Year 2020 are polished to a high gloss. The spring-loaded clip is based on a Greek helmet crest and thus traces the shape of a horse's neck. The pen also immortalises the Lambda sign, once proudly emblazoned on the large, arched defensive shields of the Lacedaemonians. It is featured as lacquered inlay on the end of the writing implement and is refined by another historical Greek decoration, the meander, the unbroken line of which symbolises immortality as many myths last forever.

In the **Sparta Black Edition**, the legendary strength of Greek heroes is showcased in a fascinating interplay between dark colour and shimmering precious stones. The anthracite-coloured, milled metal barrel with PVD coating is adorned with 42 rough diamonds adding up to 2.1 carats, in seven rows of six, which are reminiscent of the rivets on the protective armour of the Spartans. The spring-loaded clip on the cap is inspired by the shape of their helmets, the letter "Lambda" used on their defensive shields is inlaid into the end cap. The 18-carat ruthenium-plated gold nib promises a unique writing experience.

Each exclusive writing implement embodies the drive for strength, concentration and perfection that made the heroes of Sparta unique. The exclusive pen comes in a high-gloss, black wooden case. Each of the unique, individually numbered pens is accompanied by a certificate signed by Count Charles von Faber-Castell, attesting to the authenticity of the limited edition.





Sparta

Pen of the Year 2020

Technical data for the fountain pen

Launch and availability	from 18 November 2019
Barrel	Metal with ruthenium coating, 7 rough diamonds, approx. 0.35 carat
Metal parts	Ruthenium coating
Nib	18-carat gold nib with ruthenium coating
Nib widths	M, F, B, BB
Mechanism	Plunger mechanism
Weight	102 g
Overall length	Approx. 143.7 mm
Production	310 pieces
Price	€3,500.00



Sparta

Pen of the Year 2020

Technical data for the rollerball pen

Launch and availability	from 18 November 2019
Barrel	Metal with ruthenium coating, 7 rough diamonds, approx. 0.35 carat
Metal parts	Ruthenium coating
Cartridge	Magnum format, M ruby ball
Weight	113 g
Overall length	Approx. 143.7 mm
Production	90 pieces
Price	€3,200.00



Sparta
Pen of the Year 2020

Black Edition

Technical data for the fountain pen

Launch and availability	from 18 November 2019
Barrel	Metal with PVD coating, 42 rough diamonds, approx. 2.1 carat
Metal parts	PVD titanium coating
Nib	18-carat gold nib with ruthenium coating
Nib widths	M, F, B, BB
Mechanism	Plunger mechanism
Weight	102 g
Overall length	Approx. 143.7 mm
Production	270 pieces
Price	€4,800.00



Sparta
Pen of the Year 2020

Black Edition

Technical data for the rollerball pen

Launch and availability	from 18 November 2019
Barrel	Metal with PVD coating, 42 rough diamonds, approx. 2.1 carat
Metal parts	PVD titanium coating
Cartridge	Magnum format, ruby ball M
Weight	113 g
Overall length	Approx. 143.7 mm
Production	80 pieces
Price	€4,500.00