

01 / THE HOUSE STORY

The people. The point of view.



From the Sui Generis catalog

THE BEGINNING

Calvin Klein & Barry Schwartz

Calvin Klein was founded in New York in 1968 by Calvin Klein and Barry Schwartz. Over decades it developed multiple brand lines and a broad licensed product business.

FOUNDED

1968

ORIGIN

New York City, USA

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Style/SKU references and RN/company information are especially useful because they can identify the responsible manufacturer or distributor and product family. Match the code to the exact line. An RN may belong to a licensee or U.S. company in the distribution chain and is not a Calvin Klein serial number. Before 'decoding' anything, identify what kind of identifier it is: RN/business ID, style/article number, size code, supplier/production reference, serial, date mark, season code, inventory barcode, RFID/NFC or digital passport. Different identifier types answer different questions and are not interchangeable.

Research and catalog observations are distinct. See the linked sources in this guide. Dates describe the cited records; a last recorded year does not establish a line closure.

An independent educational guide by Sui Generis. Unaffiliated with the featured designer; these references cannot establish an individual item’s authenticity.

Names, lines & relationships

Calvin Klein Collection Pinnacle runway line Women’s and men’s luxury ready-to-wear and accessories	1970
Calvin Klein Global lifestyle brand Apparel, accessories, footwear and lifestyle	1968
Calvin Klein Jeans Denim line Jeans, denim apparel and casualwear	1978
Calvin Klein Underwear Underwear line Underwear, intimates and loungewear	1982
Calvin Klein Performance Activewear line Training, athleisure and performance apparel	

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Names, lines & relationships · continued

Calvin Klein Home Licensed home category Bedding, bath and home textiles	1995
Calvin Klein Fragrance Licensed beauty category Fragrance and related beauty products	1978
CALVIN KLEIN 205W39NYC Historical runway label Luxury runway ready-to-wear and accessories	2017 — 2018
ck Calvin Klein Historical diffusion / bridge line Apparel and accessories	1990
CK One Fragrance-rooted lifestyle label Fragrance and periodic apparel/capsule expressions	1994

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A story in chapters

1968	Calvin Klein House origins · Calvin Klein & Barry Schwartz
1970	Calvin Klein Collection Line / house introduction in the cited records
1978	Calvin Klein Jeans Line / house introduction in the cited records
1978	Calvin Klein Fragrance Line / house introduction in the cited records
1982	Calvin Klein Underwear Line / house introduction in the cited records
1990	ck Calvin Klein Line / house introduction in the cited records
1994	CK One Line / house introduction in the cited records

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A story in chapters · continued

1995	Calvin Klein Home Line / house introduction in the cited records
2017	CALVIN KLEIN 205W39NYC Line / house introduction in the cited records
2018	CALVIN KLEIN 205W39NYC Last year recorded here; not necessarily a closure

COLLECTION CONTEXT

Calvin Klein was founded in New York in 1968 by Calvin Klein and Barry Schwartz. Over decades it developed multiple brand lines and a broad licensed product business. For authentication, the first question is therefore not simply 'Is this Calvin Klein?' but which Calvin Klein line, license, market and era is it? Use the 1968 founding, line launches and documented designer/brand eras as context. Because licensing is extensive, manufacturer, RN and country information can legitimately change by category and market; this is one reason exact style/label-set comparison is essential.

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04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

CALVIN KLEIN 38 Regular Black Solid Twill Extreme Slim Fit
Sport Coat

Marked size = the item's original label. As a US company, Sui Generis lists a US size comparison; use the relevant brand/category chart and actual measurements to check fit.

THE LABEL / MARKING DETAIL



01 / WHAT YOU CAN READ

Calvin Klein · extreme slim fit

02 / HOW TO USE IT

The second phrase describes the fit shown on the label. Keep that wording in the product record because it helps explain the intended silhouette.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

A fit description is not by itself a separate diffusion-line name. Read any additional line wording, size and care labels before classifying the piece.

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Research & image credits

Based on the existing Sui Generis guide research and credited references. Catalog photographs are Sui Generis images. Brand names identify the subject; this guide is independent and unaffiliated. Share complete sheets with their credits and a link to the guide.

<https://www.pvh.com/news/press-releases/Calvin-Klein-Inc-Appoints-Jessica-Lomax-as-Global-Head-of-Design>

<https://www.pvh.com/brands/calvin-klein>

<https://www.pvh.com/news/calvin-klein-collection-fall-2026-runway-show>

<https://www.vogue.com/brands/calvin-klein-collection>

<https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/calvin-klein-38-regular-black-solid-twill-extreme-slim-fit-sport-coat>

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SIZING / HOW TO READ OUR CATALOG

Marked size & your US size

The marked size is the size printed on the item's original label. Sui Generis is a US company, so our catalog uses a US size comparison to help our customers shop. A US listing size may therefore differ from the number on the designer's tag; it does not change the item's original marked size.

READ THE SIZING SYSTEM

FR or F means French; IT, I or ITA means Italian; JP means Japanese; UK or GB means British; US or USA means United States. D or DE means German. EU (or UE on some labels) denotes a European size where the relevant brand and category chart uses it. French and Italian clothing numbers are not interchangeable, and a manufacturing country does not identify a sizing system.

JAPANESE & BRAND NUMBERED SIZES

Some Japanese designers use their own numbered sizes, such as 1, 2 or 3. These are brand sizes, not automatically US sizes or a universal Japanese conversion. Use the chart for the specific brand, line and item.

MATCH THE CATEGORY. CHECK THE MEASUREMENTS.

When a tag prints several national sizes, retain the brand's own size table instead of substituting a generic conversion. Women's clothing, men's tailoring and footwear need different charts. Letter sizes, denim and accessories also need their own fit information. Compare the original marking, the relevant chart and actual measurements. Vintage fit, alterations and cut can change the fit; a US comparison is a guide, not a guarantee.

If the sizing system or original marking cannot be confirmed from the available photograph, we say so rather than assigning a country or inventing a conversion.

REFERENCE READING

Nordstrom: designer clothing conversion reference

Maison Margiela: category-specific size guide

Yohji Yamamoto: measuring garments

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