

The people. The point of view.



From the Sui Generis catalog

THE BEGINNING

Thierry Hermès

Thierry Hermès opened a harness-making workshop in Paris in 1837. Hermès' official history describes six generations of artisans and the evolution from equestrian equipment into travel goods, handbags, silk, fashion and other métiers. The House's leather craft remains tied to saddle-making techniques, while objects such as the Kelly and Birkin became central to modern luxury culture. For Sui Generis, this continuity is important: Hermès may look visually restrained, so the evidence often lives in material quality, edge finishing, handwork, stamps and construction rather than overt logo placement.

FOUNDED

1837

ORIGIN

Paris, France

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Hermès leather goods are known for blind/date stamps rather than a consumer-visible unique serial number on classic bags. The stamp system changes by era and can include a year letter plus artisan/workshop characters. Other Hermès categories use product references, hallmarks or serials appropriate to their métier. Identify the category first. A blind-stamp chart for a Birkin should not be treated as a universal Hermès coding system for clothing, scarves, shoes or jewelry. Care labels should provide composition and cleaning information appropriate to the material and market.

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

Leather Goods & Equestrian Core Hermès métier Bags, small leather goods, luggage, saddlery and equestrian objects	1837
John Lobb Integrated house Shoes and bootmaking	1976
Puiforcat Integrated house Silversmithing and table arts	1993
Saint-Louis Integrated house Crystal and decorative objects	1995

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A story in chapters

1837	Hermès House origins · Thierry Hermès
1837	Leather Goods & Equestrian Line / house introduction in the cited records
1951	Robert Dumas Head of Hermès; creator of the future Kelly bag
1976	John Lobb Line / house introduction in the cited records
1978	Jean-Louis Dumas Executive Chairman and creator
1993	Puiforcat Line / house introduction in the cited records
1995	Saint-Louis Line / house introduction in the cited records

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A story in chapters · continued

2005

Pierre-Alexis Dumas

Artistic Director of Hermès

COLLECTION CONTEXT

The reusable Hermès bag-family library now covers Kelly, Birkin, Constance, Evelyne, Picotin, Garden Party and Lindy. Each card separates official design history and family codes from contextual blind/date-stamp evidence.

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04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

HERMES Brown Leather Engraved Silver Metal 2003 Necklace

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

HERMÈS

02 / HOW TO USE IT

The leather stamp is the detail to document. Take a straight-on photograph with side lighting so shallow impressions can be read without guessing.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

The other marks are too faint in this image to transcribe reliably. Do not assign a date from this partial stamp; request a clearer view of every adjacent marking.

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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.hermes.com/us/en/faq/products/authentication/>

<https://www.fashionphile.com/blogs/academy/reading-hermes-date-stamps>

<https://carredeparis.me/2013/06/30/the-evolution-of-the-hermes-care-tags/>

<https://www.hermes.com/us/en/content/333134-creative-freedom/>

<https://www.hermes.com/us/en/content/235056-six-generations-of-artisans/>

<https://www.hermes.com/us/en/content/106191-birkin/>

<https://www.hermes.com/us/en/category/women/ready-wear/>

<https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/designer/hermes>

<https://www.firstview.com/>

<https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/hermes-brown-leather-engraved-silver-metal-2003-necklace>

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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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