

01 / THE HOUSE STORY

The people. The point of view.



From the Sui Generis catalog

THE BEGINNING

Paul Smith

Paul Smith opened his first small shop in Nottingham in 1970 and built an international British label around classic tailoring, color and wit. The archive spans mainline Paul Smith, PS Paul Smith and other historical line treatments across clothing, shoes, bags and accessories. Use 1970 as the business anchor. Date older pieces through exact line wording and label construction; on modern items, product codes and official lookbooks/catalogs can be strong model and season evidence.

FOUNDED

1970

ORIGIN

Nottingham, England

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Paul Smith official wholesale/lookbook materials show structured product codes such as references beginning with line/category prefixes. Preserve the entire code and match it to the exact model, fabric and season; do not convert a shared style code into a unique 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. Read the Paul Smith care label literally before trying to date it.

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

Paul Smith Parent independent fashion house / mainline Menswear, womenswear, tailoring, accessories, footwear and licensed categories.	
PS Paul Smith Current diffusion / casual line Casual apparel, footwear and accessories; including regional capsule programs.	
Paul Smith Junior Children's category line Baby and children's apparel and accessories.	
Paul Smith Jeans Historical casual/denim line Casual menswear and denim.	1994 — 2016
Paul Smith London Historical tailored/formal line identity Tailoring and formal-oriented apparel.	2016

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A story in chapters

1970

Paul Smith

House origins · Paul Smith

1994

Paul Smith Jeans

Line / house introduction in the cited records

2016

Paul Smith Jeans

Last year recorded here; not necessarily a closure

2016

Paul Smith London

Last year recorded here; not necessarily a closure

COLLECTION CONTEXT

Paul Smith opened his first small shop in Nottingham in 1970 and built an international British label around classic tailoring, color and wit. The archive spans mainline Paul Smith, PS Paul Smith and other historical line treatments across clothing, shoes, bags and accessories. Use 1970 as the business anchor. Date older pieces through exact line wording and label construction; on modern items, product codes and official lookbooks/catalogs can be strong model and season evidence.

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04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

PAUL SMITH Silver Tone Metal Blue & Yellow HIS & HERS
Cuff Links

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

Paul Smith

02 / HOW TO USE IT

The cufflink engraving is the useful branding detail. Photograph both faces, both backs and the closures so the mark remains connected to the complete pair.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

A brand engraving is not a readable metal-purity mark. Do not name a precious-metal content without a separate legible hallmark or supporting documentation.

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Research & image credits

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https://media.paulsmith.com/dam/products/B2B%20Content/Look%20Books/AW23/AW23_PRE_Tailoring_Mens.pdf

<https://reloved.paulsmith.com/pages/sell>

<https://www.paulsmith.co.jp/company-history>

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

<https://www.paulsmith.co.jp/>

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

<https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/paul-smith-silver-tone-metal-blue-yellow-his-hers-cuff-links>

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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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