

The people. The point of view.



THE BEGINNING

Raf Simons

Raf Simons launched his namesake menswear label in 1995 after training in industrial design. The label became influential for youth culture, music references and subcultural tailoring before the designer announced its closure in 2022, with Spring/Summer 2023 as the final namesake season. The resale archive also includes Archive Redux, Raf by Raf Simons and many collaborations that must be separated from mainline. Use 1995 as the namesake launch and Spring/Summer 2023 as the final season of the original label. Archive Redux intentionally reproduced selected archival designs, so an old-looking graphic or label concept may appear on a much later legitimate piece.

FOUNDED

1995

ORIGIN

Antwerp, Belgium

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Product/style references can help match later Raf Simons items, but archive-era garments may require collection-specific runway, catalog and museum/retailer evidence. Collaboration products can use the partner brand's code system, which should not be mistaken for a Raf Simons mainline serial. 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 Raf Simons 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

Raf Simons

1995 — 2023

Historical namesake designer label

Menswear evolving into co-ed ready-to-wear, footwear, accessories and jewelry.

The Raf Simons namesake label operated from 1995 through Spring 2023 and is discontinued. Raf Simons's continuing design work for Prada belongs to Prada's brand and collection system.

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.

A story in chapters

1995	Raf Simons House origins · Raf Simons
2023	Raf Simons Last year recorded here; not necessarily a closure

COLLECTION CONTEXT

Raf Simons launched his namesake menswear label in 1995 after training in industrial design. The label became influential for youth culture, music references and subcultural tailoring before the designer announced its closure in 2022, with Spring/Summer 2023 as the final namesake season. The resale archive also includes Archive Redux, Raf by Raf Simons and many collaborations that must be separated from mainline. Use 1995 as the namesake launch and Spring/Summer 2023 as the final season of the original label. Archive Redux intentionally reproduced selected archival designs, so an old-looking graphic or label concept may appear on a much later legitimate piece.

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.

04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

RAF SIMONS 40 Regular Navy Metallic Polyester Blend 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

RAF SIMONS · SPRING–SUMMER 2007

02 / HOW TO USE IT

This label explicitly names a season and year. Use SPRING–SUMMER 2007 as a starting point for comparing the garment with collection images, alongside its cut and construction.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

The printed season is useful evidence on this example, but it does not identify a runway look number. Compare the full garment before claiming an exact runway match.

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.

SOURCES / SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

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://rafsimons.com/about

https://www.vogue.com/article/raf-simons-shutters-namesake-label-after-27-years

https://checkout.rafsimons.com/ar/collections/raf-simons-collection

https://www.rafsimons.com/

https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/designer/raf-simons

https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/raf-simons-40-regular-navy-metallic-polyester-blend-sport-coat

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.

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

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.