

The people. The point of view.



THE BEGINNING

Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge

Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge founded the couture house in Paris in 1961. The archive includes couture, Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, later Yves Saint Laurent ready-to-wear and the modern Saint Laurent identity. In 2012 the ready-to-wear label was reworked to read Saint Laurent, while the Cassandre YSL monogram remained an important accessory emblem. Use 1961 as the house founding, 1966 for the Rive Gauche ready-to-wear milestone and 2012 as the major modern branding transition. These are dating anchors, not absolute cutoffs for every category; confirm with collection and model evidence.

FOUNDED

1961

ORIGIN

Paris, France

WHY THE DETAILS MATTER

Modern Saint Laurent product pages use style IDs/article references that can help match a garment, bag, shoe or accessory to exact color/material. Historical YSL garments may rely more heavily on label era and archive evidence. No single serial/date formula spans the full archive. 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 Saint Laurent 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

Saint Laurent

Parent luxury fashion house / mainline

Menswear, womenswear, leather goods, footwear, jewelry and accessories.

The current house identity is Saint Laurent under Anthony Vaccarello. Historical Yves Saint Laurent and Rive Gauche naming are era-specific identities within the same house history rather than current standalone diffusion brands.

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A story in chapters

1961

Saint Laurent

House origins · Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge

COLLECTION CONTEXT

Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge founded the couture house in Paris in 1961. The archive includes couture, Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, later Yves Saint Laurent ready-to-wear and the modern Saint Laurent identity. In 2012 the ready-to-wear label was reworked to read Saint Laurent, while the Cassandre YSL monogram remained an important accessory emblem. Use 1961 as the house founding, 1966 for the Rive Gauche ready-to-wear milestone and 2012 as the major modern branding transition. These are dating anchors, not absolute cutoffs for every category; confirm with collection and model evidence.

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04 / A WORKED EXAMPLE FROM OUR CATALOG

Read the label. Find the details.



THE COMPLETE ITEM

SAINT LAURENT Size 8.5 Tan Suede Fringe Knee High Boots

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

SAINT LAURENT · PARIS

02 / HOW TO USE IT

The footwear’s interior stamp records the house wording. Save the stamp with the shoe’s shape and construction when comparing another catalog example.

03 / WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

PARIS is branding in this view. It does not provide the manufacturing country or collection year; request interior production and size markings separately.

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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://www.ysl.com/en-tw/pr/amalia-in-satin-834750FAF7E4694.html>

<https://www.kering.com/en/houses/fashion-and-leather-goods/saint-laurent/>

<https://www.ysl.com/en-us/collections/heritage>

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

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

<https://suigenerisconsignment.com/products/saint-laurent-size-8-5-tan-suede-fringe-knee-high-boots>

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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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