

PRESS RELEASE

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**HERMÈS CONTINUES TO INVEST IN ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY,
INAUGURATING ITS TWENTY-THIRD LEATHER GOODS WORKSHOP
IN A FULLY RENOVATED INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE BUILDING
IN RIOM (PUY-DE-DÔME) AND CREATING 280 LOCAL JOBS**

With the leather goods workshop in Riom, the second site in its Auvergne hub, Hermès continues to roll out its responsible, sustainable craftsmanship model in Auvergne. The Maroquinerie de Riom employs 250 artisans trained locally in the house's exceptional know-how. Hermès has been producing leather goods in Sayat for more than 20 years, and in 2022 the house established the École Hermès des savoir-faire in Riom to pass on the expertise required of the house's artisan saddler-leatherworkers.

Hermès is giving a new industrial vocation to one of the wings of the Manufacture des Tabacs de Riom, a former factory that has been a listed historic site since 2004. The workshop project is aligned with the house's eco-responsible principles, which seek to minimise the artificialisation of land, choose partnerships with local companies, and source and use sustainable materials for the renovation work.

The creation of this new centre of unique know-how echoes the success of Hermès' leather goods and saddlery collections. These collections are entirely made in France, creating long-term jobs and contributing to economic growth in French regions.

Hermès continues to invest in jobs and production capacity

Riom is Hermès' twenty-third leather goods site in France. Since 2010, Hermès has opened twelve leather goods workshops across France. Three other projects are currently underway – in L'Isle d'Espagnac (Charente), Loupes (Gironde) and Charleville-Mézières (Ardennes) – for which recruitment and training are ongoing.

Regional anchoring supporting employment and training

The leather goods workshop, located in the combined municipality of Riom Limagne et Volcans (Puy-de-Dôme), joins Hermès' Auvergne hub, which already includes the Sayat site inaugurated in 2004. Hermès is capitalising on the proximity of its two Puy-de-Dôme workshops, which are 13 kilometers apart, to create a virtuous circle that enables artisans to share their skills and train in the house's unique know-how. This hub-based model, rolled out in nine regions of France, preserves and perpetuates Hermès' artisanal and human culture.

To recruit its future artisans in Auvergne, Hermès works closely with the France Travail employment service, the Greta adult education service, and the Lycée Desaix high school in Saint-Éloy-les-Mines. For their training, the Maroquinerie de Riom is served by the Auvergne site of the École Hermès des savoir-faire. As an apprenticeship training center (CFA) accredited by the French Ministry of Education, it is authorised to award the CAP vocational qualification in leatherworking and the CQP professional certificate (CQP) in cutting.

The workshop employs 250 artisans trained in Hermès' unique know-how and around thirty further people in management, human resources and logistics roles.

The site is located in the heart of Riom less than 10 minutes by foot from the station, enabling employees to use green modes of transport and offering easy access to public transport links and local businesses, as well as car parks nearby.

Renovation work combining respect for heritage and an eco-responsible approach

The installation of the Hermès group's artisanal model in the former Manufacture des Tabacs de Riom transforms and extends the manufacturing vocation of a building that has been part of the local landscape and collective memory for over a century. The history of Riom and its inhabitants is closely linked to that of the Manufacture des Tabacs, built in 1877. This former tobacco factory employed 804 people in 1920. The building was extended and modernised with annexes constructed in 1907, followed in 1936 by the addition of a 100-metre longhouse. It is these extensions, abandoned since the closure of the Manufacture des Tabacs in 1975, that are rediscovering their vocation as a place of manufacturing excellence.

Hermès commissioned the firm Tracks-Architectes to renovate these buildings, with the aim of meeting both the group's real estate CSR policy goals and the house's spirit of "making beautiful things in beautiful places".

Combining heritage preservation and eco-responsibility, the aim was to make the most of existing buildings and local resources.

Facing the town of Riom, the leather goods workshop has a surface area of 7,000 m². Natural light penetrates right into the heart of the workshops, providing an essential element of comfort for the artisans' work. The Tyrolean renderings on the façades have been cleaned or restored to their original condition, as have the Volvic stone window frames and the slate roofs. The grey-blue shades of these noble materials are characteristic of the building's roots in the Auvergne landscape. The interior lining in wood wool, which provides thermal and sound insulation, and a natural ventilation system limit energy requirement. The leather goods factory is connected to the urban heating network.

The use of materials salvaged from the site has guided the design of the planted courtyard, and some of the garden furniture is made from pieces of concrete beams and steel sleepers, thus limiting waste and the need to import new materials. Rainwater retention and treatment basins are concealed beneath the courtyard.

The choice of glass and transparency guided the contemporary interventions of the façade: new carpentry, continuous glass roofs, patio, awning. Replacing the old metal structure, the mirrored glass lightens and enhances this link between the leather goods buildings.

Since 1837, Hermès has remained faithful to its artisan model and its humanist values. The freedom to create, the spirit of innovation, the constant search for beautiful materials, the transmission of savoir-faire of excellence, and the aesthetic of functionality all forge the singularity of Hermès, a house of objects created to last. An independent, family-owned company which encompasses 16 métiers, Hermès is dedicated to keeping the majority of its production in France through its 60 production and training sites and to developing its network of next to 300 stores in 45 countries. The group employs 23,200 people worldwide, including 14,300 in France, of which nearly 7,300 are craftspeople*. Axel Dumas, a sixth-generation family member, has been Hermès CEO since 2013.

Founded in 2008, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès supports projects in the areas of artistic creation, education, training and the transmission of savoir-faire, biodiversity, and the preservation of the environment.

* As of 30th June 2024