

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 26th September 2025

HERMÈS CONTINUES TO INVEST IN ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY, INAUGURATING ITS TWENTY-FOURTH LEATHER GOODS WORKSHOP IN L'ISLE-D'ESPAGNAC (CHARENTE) AND CREATING 300 LOCAL JOBS

The L'Isle-d'Espagnac workshop, Hermès' twenty-fourth leather goods site in France, will ultimately employ 260 artisans trained in the house's exceptional know-how. This fourth site in the South-West hub reaffirms Hermès' anchoring in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and its responsible and sustainable artisanal model. The creation of this new centre of unique know-how reflects the success of Hermès leather goods collections, produced exclusively in France.

A regional anchor supporting employment

This new workshop confirms the house's choice to continue producing its leather goods exclusively in France, creating long-term jobs and contributing to economic growth in French regions.

This fourth site joins the three existing leather goods workshops in the South-West hub. In 1995, Hermès opened the Maroquinerie de Nontron, followed by the Ganterie-Maroquinerie de Saint-Junien in 1998 and the Maroquinerie de Montbron in 2014. *Kelly* and *Birkin* bags, along with small leather goods, are manufactured in this new workshop. This regional network fosters Hermès' humanist culture of craftsmanship, based on proximity, transmission and training.

Hermès has established this new workshop with the support of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Development and Innovation Agency and the Greater Angoulême Urban Community. For its recruitment needs, the long-standing relationships nurtured with local partners have allowed the house to count on the assistance of the Poitiers Education Authority, the Greta Poitou-Charentes in Angoulême, the Greta-CFA Aquitaine and the France Travail employment service. People wishing to join the house's leatherworking workshops are trained at the École Hermès des savoir-faire. The training is open to all, and applications are currently open on the school's website (<https://ecole.hermes.com/>).

The École Hermès des savoir-faire: training focused on the transmission of skills

Leatherworking techniques are conveyed from one generation of artisans to the next in a spirit of companionship. To support its artisanal model, in 2021 Hermès created the École Hermès des savoir-faire in which its artisan-trainers pass on the house's know-how and culture. The École Hermès des savoir-faire has its own apprentice training centre (CFA), accredited by the French National Education authority to deliver the French CAP vocational diploma in leatherworking and the CQP certificate in cutting and stitching. Now established in nine regions of France, the school opened its doors in Marthon (Charente) in September 2022. In France, 100% of apprentices obtained their CAP vocational diploma in leatherworking from the École Hermès des savoir-faire in 2024.

Construction combining modernity with environmental responsibility

The workshop is located on the site of the former Bel-Air airfield, which is now a ZAC (urban development zone). The pursuit of what was right and necessary guided the Bordeaux-based architecture firm Guiraud-Manenc when designing the 5,800-square-metre workshop, combining modernity with environmental responsibility. With its east-west orientation, the building is conceived to benefit from the direction and level of daylight in the artisans' different working and communal areas. Designed around a main aisle, its architecture encourages interactions and dialogue throughout the day.

While each of the house's workshops is rooted in a particular region, the L'Isle-d'Espagnac site adopts the colours of its environment, with white Charente stone for its exterior facings, raw earth, straw-based thermal insulation, and poplar and red cedar wood sourced from a plantation in the Perche region for the framework and cladding. The carefully chosen, local and low-carbon materials – the vast majority of which were supplied by local companies within a 250-kilometre radius – reflect the purity and richness of the landscape.

The positive-energy building meets the highest environmental standards and complies with the *Harmonie* framework, Hermès' sustainable real estate guidelines. The vast glass façades allow natural light and warmth to enter the workshop's various spaces. Its roof, part of which is planted, is fitted with 1,800 square metres of solar panels and its technical framework and geothermal system are highly energy efficient. Outside, the sharing of existing parking provision has limited the need to use undeveloped land. The landscaping protects and incorporates the unique flora and fauna of the site's vast calcicole grassland and preserves the sanctuary of the surrounding woodland. At the entrance to the leather goods workshop, a remarkable tree – a local walnut variety – greets artisans and visitors.

Located in the Greater Angoulême peri-urban area, four kilometres from Angoulême town centre, the workshop has the benefit of a vast network of public transport and greenways that offer employees green modes of transport for their commute.

With the new L'Isle-d'Espagnac workshop and three other forthcoming projects in Loupes (Gironde), Charleville-Mézières (Ardennes) and Colombelles (Calvados), Hermès continues to roll out its responsible craftsmanship model and reaffirms its desire to make a sustainable contribution to regional development.

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 25,700 people worldwide, including 15,900 in France. 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 2025