

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 10 April 2026

HERMÈS INAUGURATES A NEW LEATHER GOODS WORKSHOP IN LOUPES (GIRONDE), ITS TWENTY-FIFTH, AND CONTINUES TO INVEST IN ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITIES WITH THE CREATION, ULTIMATELY, OF 260 ARTISAN SADDLER-LEATHERWORKER JOBS

This new workshop, the twenty-fifth Hermès leather goods site in France, will eventually be occupied by 260 artisans trained at the *École Hermès des savoir-faire*. The house reaffirms its commitment to investing in sustainable employment and to passing on its unique, exceptional craftsmanship within the French regions. The inauguration of this sixth leather goods workshop in Nouvelle-Aquitaine supports the success of Hermès' leather goods and saddlery collections, which are exclusively made in France.

A strong regional presence supporting job creation and the transmission of the house's craftsmanship

The Loupes workshop is Hermès' second production site in the Gironde department, following the inauguration of the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul workshop in September 2021. Within the manufacture, artisans produce some of the house's most celebrated creations, such as the *Kelly*, *Constance* and *Bride de jour* bags. A dedicated workshop focuses on developing the production stages of the new bag models that will be crafted by artisans within the hub, with each of them applying the house's exceptional expertise.

At the regional level, the Loupes workshop is the sixth Hermès leather goods and saddlery production site in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, where the house already operates the glove and leathers goods workshop in Saint-Junien (Haute-Vienne) and leather goods workshops in Nontron (Dordogne), Montbron (Charente), Saint-Vincent-de-Paul (Gironde) and L'Isle-d'Espagnac (Charente). In a spirit of mentorship, this unique regional network enables the transmission of the saddler-leatherworker profession and the house's craftsmanship between experienced artisans and new apprentices.

Hermès established the Loupes workshop with the support of the local Communauté de Communes du Créonnais and Sysdau, the joint authority responsible for the territorial coherence scheme (SCoT) of the Bordeaux metropolitan area.

A certified training program delivered by the *École Hermès des savoir-faire* to acquire excellence in leather goods craftsmanship

At the *École Hermès des savoir-faire*, a training centre for apprentices (Centre de formation d'apprentis – CFA) accredited by the French Ministry of Education since 2021 and established in Gironde in 2023, Hermès' master artisans teach the techniques of excellence in leatherworking. As certified assessors, they award the vocational diploma (CAP) in leatherworking and the professional qualification certificate (CQP) for cutting professions.

Hermès relies on local partners such as France Travail Nouvelle-Aquitaine for recruitment, as well as GRETA-CFA Aquitaine and the Lycée Charles Péguy in Eysines (Gironde). The training is free, and trainees are remunerated. It is open to anyone wishing to become a leather artisan, with no prerequisites. Applications can be submitted via the *École Hermès des savoir-faire* website (<https://ecole.hermes.com/>).

A building integrated into its natural environment, offering a comfortable workspace conducive to the production of the house's leather goods.

The design and construction of the Loupes workshop were entrusted to the Bayonne-based architectural firm Patrick Arotcharen Architecte, also responsible for the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul site. Set within a wooded environment, the building gradually emerges from the surrounding vegetation, its elongated form following the contours of the landscape and the natural lines of the trees. The workshop is thus integrated into its surroundings, forming a green cocoon where architecture interacts with the environment.

Rhythmically structured by sunshades and transparent façade elements, the close relationship between the building and its surroundings creates a constantly changing perception of the architecture. The double-curved roof, designed to control rainwater flow in the forest environment, defines the structure's architectural identity. In front of the building, a terrace extends out into a semicircular set of steps, at the centre of which stand two prominent oak trees.

The workshop is oriented on a north-south axis to allow natural light into the heart of the workshops, which are built on pylons overlooking the terrain. Beyond the large reception area dedicated to shared moments and catering, a curving internal street leads to various spaces, including eight production workshops. Large glass façades provide continuous views of the tree canopy, creating the feeling of working in the heart of the forest throughout the seasons.

A positive-energy building aligned with Hermès' environmental commitments

The Loupes workshop is part of the house's proactive environmental approach, based on the Harmonie sustainable real estate framework. The project was developed in close collaboration with ecologists to preserve soil permeability, retain all existing trees, and adapt the building's placement to the site's root systems, water flows and topography. To limit land artificialisation, the building's footprint was reduced through a multi-level design combining workshops, workspaces, parking and an underground rainwater reservoir.

The site combines low-carbon concrete foundations with a light timber structure and bio-based materials. The largely exposed Douglas fir framework is the central feature of the project, with its rounded design emphasising the internal circulation of spaces.

Material assemblies and technical systems are intentionally visible, reflecting a restrained, artisanal approach that highlights the work of the various trades involved in the construction. Heated by geothermal energy using probes integrated into the foundation piles and equipped with photovoltaic panels as well as a rainwater recovery system, the workshop carefully manages its energy and water footprint.

Finally, the site is served by public transport and fitted with electric vehicle charging stations, promoting responsible mobility and reflecting the house's commitment to designing workplaces that are integrated into the local urban fabric.

With the new Loupes workshop and three additional projects planned in Charleville-Mézières (Ardennes), Colombelles (Calvados), and Les Andelys (Eure), Hermès is strengthening its role as a responsible corporate citizen and reaffirming its commitment to contributing sustainably to regional economic growth.

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 63 production and training sites and to developing its network of next to 300 stores in 45 countries. The group employs 26,494 people worldwide, including 16,349 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 31 December 2025