



## feature

by Helen Abrams  
photos by Christophe Taniere

# SAUT HERMÈS 2026

*Where Heritage, Sport, and Style  
Converge Beneath the Grand Palais*

Each spring, beneath the soaring glass canopy of Paris's Grand Palais, Saut Hermès returns as one of the most prestigious events on the international show jumping calendar. Now a global luxury brand, Hermès humbly began in 1837 as the Paris workshop of Thierry Hermès, making harnesses for carriage horses. The horse has never been just a decorative symbol for Hermès; rather the company's first customer. Saut Hermès is a modern expression of that origin story and a symbol of the brand's timeless legacy: precision, leatherwork, movement, discipline, and elegance translated into an elite three day show jumping event.

The event itself launched in 2010 as an international show jumping competition with its goal of bringing high-level equestrian sport back into the center of Paris, and all under the Hermès' name. The location, Paris' historic Grand Palais,

is central to this story. Built for the 1900 Universal Exposition, it hosted equestrian competitions from the early 1900s until the late 1950s. Saut Hermès re-ignited that tradition after decades away from competition, making the event part of the venue's enduring romance.

Attending Saut Hermès is an experience shaped as much by exclusivity as it is by spectacle. While a limited number of public tickets are released each year, access to the most coveted vantage points, particularly within the VIP and hospitality spaces, remains reserved for Hermès clients and guests invited directly through the brand. These coveted invitations unlock the most intimate encounters with the show, where impeccable service, curated dining, and front-row proximity to the ring creates an atmosphere that feels both intimate and grand. For those hoping to secure tickets, timing is everything. The best strategy is to

subscribe to the Saut Hermès newsletter, check the site as soon as sales open, and prioritize the exact session you want to attend, rather than waiting to compare options. It is this balance of accessibility and exclusivity that continues to define Saut Hermès as a social highlight of both the Parisian year and the equestrian show calendar.

From a sporting perspective, Saut Hermès holds significant weight within the FEI international jumping circuit, offering valuable ranking points that contribute to global standings. The CSI5\* classes attract the sport's elite, while the CSIU25 division, Les Talents Hermès, provides a crucial platform for the next generation of competitors. These under-25 riders compete at a high technical level, earning FEI points and gaining exposure in an environment that mirrors the pressure and prestige of more senior competition. For



many riders, success here marks a pivotal step toward championship-level careers, reinforcing the event's dual role as a peak show venue, as well as providing ground for all riders.

This year, Hermès reimagined the entire palais into a beach theme that transformed the traditional setting into a day at the beach. The Grand sand-toned installations, with sections of the VIP areas, featured sculptural elements that included intricate sandcastles, bringing a tactile, almost surreal coastal atmosphere inside. This creative direction gives a nod to the Year of the Horse, blending natural textures with equestrian heritage in a way that feels playful, yet deeply intentional. The concept of bringing the beach to the barn also underscores Hermès' unique ability to merge storytelling, design, and sport into a cohesive sensory experience.

The competition unfolds across three dynamic days. Friday sets the tone with CSI5 and U25 classes, including the Prix Hermès Sellier, a fast-paced test against the clock that introduces the rhythm of the weekend. By Saturday, the atmosphere sharpens. The morning begins with Les Talents Hermès CSIU25, before giving way to the CSI5 Prix GL Events and culminating in Le Saut Hermès, a two-round championship class that demands both precision and endurance.

By the second day, the competition settles into something electric, where fractions of a second begin to define the leaderboard. In the CSIU25 ranks, James Connors Smyth delivered one of the standout performances of the weekend, producing a faultless jump-off in 34.76 seconds aboard Dia Chapila PS to take the win. Close behind, Mathieu Guery and Léon Pieyre followed within just over a second, reflecting the depth and precision of the next generation. Guery had already made his mark earlier in the competition, adding another victory in the speed phase and reinforcing his position as one of the week's defining young riders.

In the CSI5 classes, the pace intensified. Mathieu Billot set the benchmark in the Prix GL Events with a quick, controlled round, while Le Saut Hermès introduced a more demanding test of consistency across two rounds. It was Pieter Devos and Jarina J who rose to the challenge, delivering a composed yet competitive performance to secure the win, with Jessica Burke and Malin Baryard-Johnsson close behind in a class that rewarded technical mastery





as much as speed. The day closed with the Prix du 24 Faubourg, where Simon Delestre claimed victory in a fast-moving accumulator, adding another layer of energy to an already tightly contested day.

Sunday unfolded with equal precision, opening with the Prix de la Ville de Paris before shifting focus once again to the U25 team competition. Here, Claudia Moore and Olivia Sponer led their team to victory, highlighting the collaborative dimension of the next-generation classes. The weekend reached its peak in the Grand Prix Hermès, where Scott Brash and Hello Chadora Lady delivered a decisive jump-off performance to claim victory. With Martin Fuchs and Harrie Smolders completing the podium, it was a fitting conclusion to three days of world-class sport, bringing Saut Hermès to an elegant and exhilarating close.

Beyond the competition itself, Saut Hermès offers an immersive experience that extends

well beyond the ring, particularly for families. The main level of the Grand Palais hosts a dedicated space where younger guests can step into the world of horses firsthand, riding ponies through miniature obstacle courses. Nearby, a virtual reality riding experience invites visitors to feel the rhythm and precision of show jumping from a rider's perspective.

The upper level is replete with coffee and delicious food stands and light fare throughout the day. From this elevated vantage point, guests are treated to one of the most striking views of the event, overlooking both the main arena and the warm-up ring—a dual perspective that highlights the teamwork and preparation needed prior to entering the ring.

Certainly not to be missed is the exclusive Saut Hermès boutique, a space that feels as intentional as the competition itself. Conceived as an extension of the maison's

world, it offers a curated expression of Hermès' equestrian heritage, where finely crafted riding gear sits alongside Saut Hermès silks and cashmere made available exclusively at the event. These pieces are presented not simply as objects, but as part of a larger narrative of craftsmanship, and design.

Saut Hermès leaves behind more than results and ribbons. It is a reminder of the maison's enduring relationship with the horse. From the intensity of world-class competition to the details of design, the event exists in a space uniquely its own, where Parisian elegance meets equestrian excellence.

Saut Hermès is not simply a competition to attend, but an experience to absorb, one that lingers long after the the last ribbon is pinned. **HS**

Learn more at: [sauthermes.com/fr](https://sauthermes.com/fr)