

J. Mendel, a fifth-generation French atelier, has evolved into a global luxury fashion house under the auspices of creative director Gilles Mendel. Founded in St. Petersburg in the 1870s as furriers to the Russian aristocracy, the house of J. Mendel relocated to Paris’s famed rue Saint-Honoré following the Russian Revolution.

Gilles Mendel took the helm as designer and CEO in 1981, having apprenticed in his family’s Paris atelier under his father, Jacques. Committed to taking his ancestors’ legacy of exceptional quality, savoir faire and uncompromising luxury to a broader stage, Gilles opened his first J. Mendel Boutique at Elizabeth Arden’s Fifth Avenue Salon in New York City. Quickly attracting a devoted clientele, he relocated his collections to a free-standing J. Mendel boutique in 1985. Located at 723 Madison, the store remains one of the company’s key retail locations in the United States.

Known for combining the highest quality materials and impeccable craftsmanship with a modern, award-winning design sensibility, Gilles Mendel transformed the company from a luxury fur atelier into a full-fledged fashion house with the launch of ready-to-wear in 2002. More recently, he introduced J. Mendel accessories, handbags, and home furnishings. In recognition of his achievements in women’s fashion, Mendel was inducted into the Council of Fashion Designers of America in 2003, and received the prestigious Smithsonian Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in 2011.

Gilles Mendel’s signature luxe-femininity and effortless elegance has made the house of J. Mendel a red-carpet favorite among international royalty and Hollywood stars alike. His collections are carried at the finest stores across the globe.