

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Eyewear titan Leonardo Del Vecchio dies at 87

June 27, 2022



Leonardo Del Vecchio, 1935-2022. Image credit: Luxottica

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Italian eyewear group Luxottica has confirmed the passing of founder and chairman Leonardo Del Vecchio.

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Mr. Del Vecchio passed away on June 27 at the age of 87. One of the wealthiest and most influential men in Italy, he also served as chairman of French-Italian eyewear group **EssilorLuxottica**, which formed in 2018.

"It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our chairman, Leonardo Del Vecchio," **Luxottica** said in a statement. "Today, the world has lost a visionary: an entrepreneurial genius, a good friend to many and an all-round incredible man."

Clear eyes

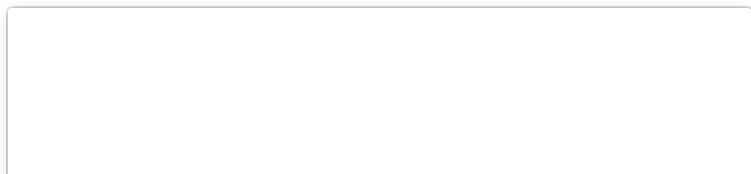
Mr. Del Vecchio was born in Milan on May 22, 1935. He rose from his impoverished background to become a metalworker and eventually applied those skills to making spectacle parts.

In 1961, he moved to northeast Italy, home of the country's eyewear industry, and formed Luxottica s.a.s. By 1967, Mr. Del Vecchio had begun selling complete spectacle frames under the Luxottica brand.

The next two decades saw Luxottica grow through acquisitions and international subsidiaries.

In 1988, Mr. Del Vecchio signed a licensing deal with Italian designer Giorgio Armani. It was the first of many partnerships between Luxottica and luxury fashion labels over the years, including Burberry, Bulgari, Chanel, Prada and Valentino.

"Leonardo, how many discussions, how many conversations, so much honesty to make our dreams come true," Mr. Armani said in a statement. "I've lost a friend, first, and a companion in this long professional adventure."



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A post shared by Giorgio Armani (@giorgioarmani)

Giorgio Armani paid tribute to Leonardo Del Vecchio

Throughout his career, Mr. Del Vecchio was known for his ambitious acquisitions, growing Luxottica by picking up brands including LensCrafters, Ray-Ban, Sunglass Hut, Pearle Vision and Oakley.

He also spearheaded a multibillion-dollar merger with French eyewear manufacturer Essilor. EssilorLuxottica has more than 140,000 employees and a sales presence in more than 150 countries ([see story](#)).

"EssilorLuxottica sadly announces today that its chairman Leonardo Del Vecchio has passed away," the group said in a statement. "The company expresses its deepest condolences to the family and to the global employee community for this enormous loss.

"The board will meet to determine next steps."

Mr. Del Vecchio is survived by six children, including Italian businessman Claudio Del Vecchio.

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