First-ever Fortune 500 Europe list launches, Mercedes-Benz ranked among top 10

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Several luxury companies are among those listed in a new ranking from American global business magazine Fortune.

Launched Nov. 8, the inaugural edition of Fortune 500 Europe ranks the region’s largest businesses by total revenue. Of luxury labels, four landed within the release’s top 100, with German automaker Mercedes-Benz coming in ninth place overall.

“European corporations have had to navigate several challenges in their latest fiscal year, including the Ukraine war and its ripple effects on energy prices, as well as economic volatility due to high inflation and interest rates,” said Scott DeCarlo, list editor at Fortune, in a statement.

“Despite headwinds, some industries benefited from a boost in consumer demand as they emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, and sustainability remained top of mind for several of them,” Mr. DeCarlo said. “With a diverse population come diverse challenges and so these European powerhouses are continuing to grow and adapt in an increasingly complex and unpredictable geopolitical and economic landscape.”

Best in class
Following a surge in readership across the pond, Fortune 500, first introduced in 1955, is branching out.

The debut arrives as Fortune.com extends its editorial purview online, doubling down on digital coverage of the European business landscape.

Fortune 500 Europe marks an early building block in an eastward expansion for the New York-based magazine, with new editors and writers stationed around key markets abroad in support of the shift.

The inaugural edition of our #Fortune500Europe list is here, ranking the continent’s largest companies by revenue.

Together, the companies brought in $13.94 trillion in their most recent fiscal year. https://t.co/ZDulc7BQqm pic.twitter.com/ceSdMxj8pF
Of the luxury names featured on the list, German automaker BMW, French fashion house Christian Dior and beauty group L’Oral rounded out those with a presence in the top 100, the three brands placing 12th, 31st and 90th, respectively.

Italian eyewear conglomerate EssilorLuxottica, French luxury conglomerate Kering, British spirits distributor Diageo, French fashion house Chanel, British automaker Rolls-Royce and French fashion and leather goods house Hermès placing in various positions within the top 300.

Fortune 500 Europe’s remaining 200 is clear of any luxury contenders, a reality representative of the industry’s outsized impact on international economies. A few designers fueling sales have taken to the spotlight recently.

Following an early-week ceremony, The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) is celebrating the winners of its 2023 Fashion Awards (see story).