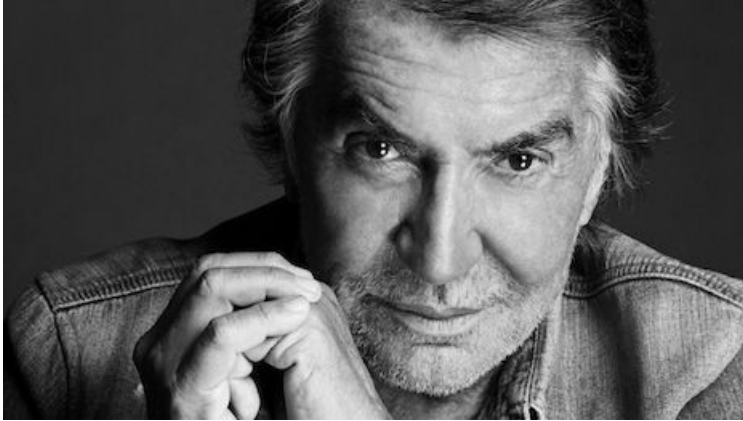


APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Designer Roberto Cavalli dies at 83

April 15, 2024



The Florentine designer leaves behind his partner and six children. Image credit: Roberto Cavalli

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The man behind Italian fashion label Roberto Cavalli has passed away.

On Friday, April 12, the designer died at the age of 83 at his home in Florence. He leaves behind a legacy of animal prints, glamor and textile innovations beloved by the stars for decades.

"The Roberto Cavalli company shares condolences with Mr. Cavalli's family loss," said Sergio Azzolari, CEO of [Roberto Cavalli](#), in a statement.

"His legacy remains a constant source of inspiration."

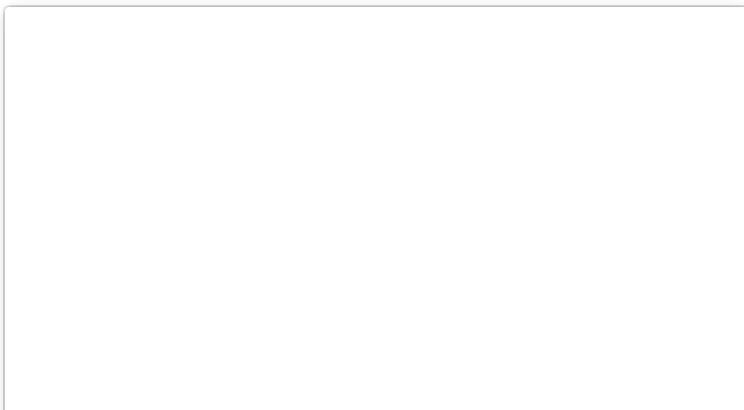
Fallen legend

The late creative was born in Florence in 1940 to Marcella and Giorgio Cavalli.

His father died when Mr. Cavalli was just a toddler during a Nazi roundup in 1944. Following this tragedy, he would eventually grow up to study at the Art Institute of Florence, following in the footsteps of his creative family members his grandfather, Giuseppe Rossi, was part of the Macchiaioli movement and had his art exhibited in the famed Uffizi Gallery.

In the 1970s, Mr. Cavalli founded Roberto Cavalli, applying his design education to his own business.

He quickly became known for his seductive fashion styles and trailblazing methods. Carving out a name for himself in the industry, he developed new techniques to make animal-printed leather and distressed denim looks.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Roberto Cavalli (@roberto_cavalli)

In 2015, the fashion titan left the world of design following the sale of his company to Italian private equity group Clessidra. Today, the brand is run by Italian company Auriel Investment SA.

Since Mr. Cavalli's departure, the label has continued to focus on putting out glitzy fashion pieces and engaging with the stars ([see story](#)).

"Dear Roberto, you may not be physically here with us anymore but I know I will feel your spirit with me always," said Fausto Puglisi, creative director at Roberto Cavalli, in a statement.

"It is the greatest honor of my career to work under your legacy and to create for the brand you founded with such vision and style," Mr. Puglisi said. "Rest in peace you will be missed and you are loved by so many that your name will continue on, a beacon of inspiration for others, and especially for me."

Mr. Cavalli is survived by his six children and partner of 10 years, Sandra Nilsson, a 38-year-old Swedish model.

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