

Isha Ambani's Custom Valentino Lehenga: A Rare Fashion Legacy

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In the wake of the fashion world mourning the passing of iconic Italian couturier **Valentino Garavani** at the age of 93, one remarkable fashion moment has resurfaced as a symbol of cross-cultural couture brilliance — the **only lehenga ever created by Maison Valentino**, custom-made for Indian entrepreneur **Isha Ambani**.

A Historic Fashion Collaboration

During the grand celebrations of her wedding in **December 2018**, Isha Ambani — daughter of industrialist Mukesh Ambani — chose a bespoke bridal ensemble that bridged the worlds of Indian tradition and Italian haute couture. For her **wedding reception at Jio Gardens, Mumbai**, Maison Valentino crafted a *gold and ivory lehenga* featuring **intricate gold embroidery, floral motifs and delicate lace accents**, an extraordinary creation that remains the **first and only Indian lehenga in the luxury house's history**.

The ensemble was paired with a richly embroidered blouse and a matching dupatta adorned with traditional zari work, complemented by statement diamond jewellery chosen by Isha.

Couture Meets Tradition

This Valentino bridal lehenga marked a rare couture chapter — a significant departure from the label's famed gown and tailoring legacy, making this piece an emblem of cultural fusion in global fashion. Crafted with European craftsmanship yet rooted in Indian bridal aesthetics, the lehenga showcased how haute couture can respectfully honour regional heritage while maintaining a luxury couture sensibility.

Legacy and Ongoing Recognition

Valentino's decision to create this one-of-a-kind lehenga for Isha Ambani not only highlighted the brand's willingness to venture beyond conventional Western silhouettes but also celebrated the global reach of fashion narratives. The piece has since been immortalised through exhibition at the **Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC)**, where it has fascinated fashion lovers and historians.

A Moment That Endures

As the global fashion community reflects on Valentino's legacy — from his creation of the signature *Valentino red* to unforgettable runway collections and custom couture — the historic lehenga stands as a testament to his respect for women, craftsmanship, and cross-cultural creativity.

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