

## **Antitrust approval obtained: Henkell and Freixenet join forces**

- **Hevia and Bonet families sell shares of Freixenet S.A. to Henkell & Co.-Group**
- **Capital increase by José Ferrer Sala**
- **Spanish-German cooperation creates the world's leading sparkling wine group**
- **New board of directors for Freixenet led by two co-presidents**

**Wiesbaden/Sant Sadurní d'Anoia, 31 July 2018** – Henkell, the Oetker Group's sparkling wine, wine and spirits branch, today announced the closing of its acquisition of Freixenet S.A.'s shares (50,67%) from the Hevia and Bonet families following the approval of the European Commission. The closing marks the start of an extensive cooperation with the remaining Freixenet shareholders, José Ferrer Sala and José Luis Bonet Ferrer.

The Spanish-German cooperation creates the world's leading sparkling wine group, allowing Henkell and Freixenet to access new markets and distribution channels, enabling them to achieve sustainable growth. Freixenet is the number one brand in the international sparkling wine market with leading market positions and sales in more than 100 countries. The Henkell Group has a wide portfolio of sparkling wines, with market leading positions in many markets, including Mionetto as the best-selling Prosecco globally.

Following a capital increase by Freixenet's honorary president, José Ferrer Sala, he and José Luis Bonet will own 50% of Freixenet S.A.'s share capital – while Henkell will own the other 50%.

The new board of directors of Freixenet will be led by the two co-presidents José Luis Bonet and Dr. Albert Christmann, general partner of Dr. August Oetker KG. Further members will include Demetrio Carceller Arce, president of S.A. Damm, who will contribute his expertise in the beverage industry, as well as Pedro Ferrer and Dr. Andreas Brokemper, spokesman of Henkell's management, who both will become managing directors.

Enrique Hevia Ferrer, spokesman for the selling shareholders, said: “The sale of our shares is a very emotional moment for us. In Henkell we found the perfect partner for Freixenet. Our families would like to thank all employees for their hard work and loyalty over the years and wish Freixenet all the best for the future.”

José Ferrer Sala, honorary president of Freixenet, added: “The cooperation with Henkell will not only give continuity to Freixenet, a company renowned for its tradition, but will also strengthen its international leadership in the world of cava.”

Dr. Albert Christmann, general partner of Dr. August Oetker KG, emphasized: “Henkell and Freixenet share a deep understanding of tradition, quality and continuity. The strategic partnership will help to develop new business opportunities, strengthening our market positions in the growing global sparkling wine market.”

Demetrio Carceller Arce, president of S.A. Damm, stated: "After many years of friendly relations between the Oetker and Carceller families at Damm, where I am on the board with Dr. August Oetker, I am very happy to be part of this joint new project at the emblematic company Freixenet."

José Luis Bonet Ferrer, co-president of Freixenet, concluded: “The cooperation with a partner like Henkell, which has substantial sector expertise on a global level, will help Freixenet maintain its identity and accelerate its international expansion.”

### **About Henkell & Co. Group**

The Henkell & Co. Group is part of the Oetker Group and consists of subsidiaries in 22 countries, exporting to more than 100 countries around the globe. It is the market leader for wine, sparkling wine, Prosecco or various categories of spirits in numerous countries. Its portfolio includes well known international brands such as Henkell and Mionetto. Further information can be found at [www.henkell-gruppe.com](http://www.henkell-gruppe.com).

### **About Freixenet, S.A.**

Freixenet S.A. is a family-owned company which was founded in 1914, but has roots that date back to 1861. It is Spain’s largest exporter of beverages and the global No.1 cava producer. The company is headquartered in Sant Sadurní d’Anoia, close to Barcelona. Freixenet, which owns brands such as Freixenet, Mederaño, Mia, Segura Viudas and Gloria Ferrer, has subsidiaries in 19 countries, such as in the US, Argentina, China and Australia and exports its brands to 109 countries. For further information see <http://www.freixenet.com>.

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**FREIXENET**



**HENKELL & CO.**  
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