



Press release

Verallia's Cognac glass plant celebrates the restarting of its furnace dedicated to the production of extra-flint glass

Cognac, September 1, 2017 - The teams at Verallia's Cognac plant celebrated this Friday, September 1, 2017, the restarting of one of the factory's three furnaces, the one specialized in producing very high quality extra-flint glass. This €12m investment further strengthens the Verallia group's territorial anchoring in Charente and its leadership as the reference glassmaker on the dynamic Cognac market.

Work on modernizing Cognac's extra-flint producing furnace lasted less than two months and mobilized around fifty business partners. The furnace and its four production lines were refurbished to increase the facility's extra-flint output and flexibility.

The result of a long industrial history initiated in 1878 by Claude Boucher, inventor of the first glass-blowing machine, Verallia's Cognac plant today serves three main markets: still wines, sparkling wines, and Cognac and spirits. Most Cognac producers, regardless of their size and their positioning opt for extra-flint glass, a color unrivalled in terms of transparency and shine.

With this investment, Verallia, a manufacturing corporation wholly dedicated to glass packaging, continues to implement its operational excellence strategy and further strengthens its foothold in the Charente region of France where it employs 430 people on 4 manufacturing sites (glassmaking plant, Everglass household glass treatment site, René Salomon facilities, Société Charentaise de décor [acquired in April 2017](#)).

"With this new installations, we are increasing our capacity, our flexibility – notably for the production of large containers up to 4.5l, and our quality control. We have also taken care of the working conditions for our teams: the lines are now equipped with hoists to reduce load-carrying, the site's ventilation has been enhanced and we have refurbished the furnace control cabin at the hot end" stated Christian Garnaud, Verallia Cognac's plant manager.

During the traditional furnace lighting ceremony, the furnace was symbolically relit by Véronique Martial, PA at the plant, and Patrick Bernardet, furnace rebuild project leader at Verallia, who are now respectively the furnace's godmother and godfather.

About Verallia – An independent group, Verallia is one of the world's top three manufacturers of glass packaging for food and beverages, and proposes innovative, customized and environmentally-friendly solutions. Verallia produced around 16 billion glass bottles and jars in 2016. Verallia's business model is based on combining the strength of its global network (manufacturing operations in 13 countries, sales locations in 46 countries with 5 technical centres and 13 product development centres) and local customer relationships in all regions. In 2016, Verallia achieved net sales of €2.4bn. For more information: www.verallia.com.

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