



PLANTAGENET

Plantagenet Capital Management LLC
220 Sansome Street, Suite 460
San Francisco CA, 94104
Tel. 415-433-6536
Fax 415 433-6153
www.plantagenetcapital.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joanne Lessner
Miller DeMartine Group
212-222-7436
jlessner@mdgpr.com

PLANTAGENET CAPITAL ACQUIRES LEADING FRENCH CHAMPAGNE PRODUCER

Plans to Broaden Markets for 139-year-old Firm's Products - 'Y2K Opportunity' Seen in Europe and U.S.

San Francisco, February 1, 1999 – Plantagenet Capital Management LLC today announced that it has acquired Champagne Albert Le Brun, a family-operated Champagne producer founded in 1860 and based in France's historic Champagne region. Francois Le Brun, a third-generation descendent of the founder, will remain with the company to oversee production and quality control.

Plantagenet, a San Francisco private equity firm that recently opened a French investment arm, plans to extend Le Brun's marketing reach through agreements with European and North American importers and distributors.

C. Derek Anderson, Senior Managing Partner of Plantagenet, said, "Impending shortages of sparkling wines, particularly premium Champagnes, have been widely predicted by industry experts during the run-up to next year's millenium celebrations. 1999 is the perfect year to better establish the Le Brun brand in European and U.S. markets. We believe that Albert Le Brun presents a 'Y2K opportunity' rather than a 'Y2K problem.'"

Champagne Albert Le Brun was founded by Leon Le Brun, a winemaker descended from Albert Le Brun, a legal advisor to Louis XIV. Over the years, Le Brun has been intimately involved in the development of the modern Champagne industry. Its cellars, which date to the Napoleonic era, are the birthplace of such innovations as the metallic cap surrounding the Champagne cork.

Today, the firm sells a variety of hand crafted Champagnes, including the acclaimed Cuvée Vieille France vintage brut prestige cuvée. This exceptional Champagne is made from premier quality Pinot Noir grapes from Hautvillers, Vertus, Veinay and Chigny-les-Roses, and Chardonnay from Avize. Another Champagne, Albert Le Brun Cuvée Reserve, is a non-vintage brut composed from a combination of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the best villages, an ideal Champagne for all occasions.

Plantagenet Capital Management LLC, based in San Francisco, is a private equity firm focused on strategic buyouts and turnaround situations.

#

For more information, please contact Derek Anderson at 415-433-6536 or email at anderson@plantagenetcapital.com.