

## MOLESKINE ANNOUNCES ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

### **Arrigo Berni new Chairman of the Board Lorenzo Viglione new Chief Executive Officer**

Milan, 19 September 2017 - Moleskine S.r.l., the company behind the legendary brand of notebooks and creativity tools, announces that, in the September 27 meeting of its Board of Directors, Arrigo Berni will be appointed Chairman of the Board after having served as CEO since October 2006. The Board will also appoint Lorenzo Viglione as its new CEO. Lorenzo Viglione is currently the company Chief Operating Officer of Moleskine and has held this position since October 2014.

The change, fully endorsed by D'Ieteren, Moleskine's parent company, takes place in a context of continuity, both in terms of strategy and organization. The continuing engagement of both Berni and Viglione, who have been instrumental to the success of Moleskine, creates the ideal conditions for the Company to maintain its trajectory of growth.

*"Already before becoming shareholders of Moleskine" said Axel Miller, CEO of D'Ieteren, "we have been impressed by the quality of the management team and by Arrigo and Lorenzo in particular. This feeling has only deepened since we became shareholder. The continuity in the change being announced today" Miller continued, "is important. We trust that Lorenzo will lead the Company to achieving its growth objectives and we are delighted that Arrigo, whose exceptional ability to imagine a future has been critical to the success of Moleskine, will continue to be part of a story still to be written".*

*"In the course of eleven years" says Arrigo Berni "Moleskine has been transformed from a small entrepreneurial venture into a global organization, led by a first rate management team. I am proud of our achievements, which have been the result of the dedication and passion of our people, whom I thank wholeheartedly for their contribution. For me, it is now time to pursue also other initiatives" Berni continued "and I am happy to be able to do it, while at the same time continuing, as Chairman, to contribute to the future of Moleskine. For the Company, appointing a new CEO from within is a sign of strength and stability. As COO, Lorenzo's contribution to the growth of Moleskine has been critical. He has shown uncommon leadership qualities and I am happy to be able to continue my professional relationship with him."*

*Lorenzo Viglione said "I am honored and enthusiastic to have the possibility to lead Moleskine into its next phase of growth. It is a fantastic brand, with a future full of opportunities and whom one cannot help but fall in love with. I am confident that with the support of our shareholder and my partnership with Arrigo, Moleskine will continue its inspiring journey, following the path that has been laid out by my predecessor. I have no doubt", concluded Viglione, "that with the energy of all those who are part of the Company and that, like me, feel passionate about Moleskine, we will continue to develop and to be part of the creative processes of an ever expanding, global audience".*

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# MOLESKINE

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**Moleskine®** was created as a brand in 1997, bringing back to life the legendary notebook used by artists and thinkers over the past two centuries: among them Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, and Bruce Chatwin. A trusted and handy travel companion, the nameless black notebook held invaluable sketches, notes, stories, and ideas that would one day become famous paintings or the pages of beloved books. Today, the name Moleskine encompasses a family of objects: notebooks, diaries, journals, bags, writing instruments and reading accessories, dedicated to our mobile identity. Indispensable companions to the creative professions and the imagination of our times, they are intimately tied to the digital world. Since 1 January 2007, Moleskine has also become the name of the company which owns the worldwide trademark rights for the brand. Moleskine develops, markets and sells a variety of tools for the creative class and others that provide open platforms for creativity and communication, contributing to the expansion and dissemination of culture and knowledge. The company grew out of the experience of Modo&Modo, a small Milanese publisher that in 1997 created the Moleskine® trademark. In the fall of 2006, Modo&Modo was acquired by Syntegra Capital, with the objective of fully developing the potential of the Moleskine brand. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange in April 2013, the company was acquired in October 2016 by D'leteren, a family-owned group founded in 1805 and based in Brussels. Moleskine has more than 400 employees and a vast network of partners. Its home office is in Milan, Italy.

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