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Freixenet Copestick hands its U.K. business to a four-person executive committee in 2027

Damian Clarke and Robin Copestick will step aside, leaving Maria Lopez, Harmeet Matharu, Lucy Auld and Rob Hilton to lead

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Freixenet Copestick, the U.K. arm of Henkell Freixenet, said on Monday, November 16, that it will install a new leadership structure from January 2027, with current managing directors Damian Clarke and Robin Copestick stepping down from their present roles and handing control of the business to a newly created executive committee.

The company said the change is meant to build on the structure developed in recent years and prepare the business for its next phase of growth. Under the plan, Maria Lopez will become chief commercial officer and Harmeet Matharu will become chief financial officer. The two executives will form the board of directors of Freixenet Copestick.

They will be joined on the U.K. executive committee by Lucy Auld, the company's marketing director, and Rob Hilton, its operations director. Freixenet Copestick said the four-person group will lead the business in the U.K. after the transition takes effect in January 2027.

Clarke and Copestick are not leaving the wider group. The company said Clarke will continue in his global leadership role for Henkell Freixenet, while Copestick will move into a new position within the group. The announcement did not give further details about Copestick's new post.

The move shifts day-to-day leadership in the U.K. to executives who already hold senior operational roles across finance, marketing, operations and commercial strategy. The company presented the change as a planned handover rather than a break with its current direction, saying the new arrangement is built on the foundation set by the outgoing managing directors.

In a statement released with the announcement, Lopez said the management team was ready for the new structure and focused on the opportunities ahead. She thanked Clarke and Copestick for their contribution to the company and said both would remain important to its future. Lopez also pointed to the company's range of brands and supplier relationships, citing labels including I heart Wines, Mionetto, Bolney and Freixenet, along with premium producers from other markets.

Her comments suggest the company sees the revised structure as a way to strengthen oversight across a broad portfolio at a time when wine businesses continue to face pressure from changing consumer demand, cost constraints and competition in the U.K. market. Freixenet Copestick did not announce any changes to its brand lineup, supplier partnerships or broader commercial strategy alongside the leadership reshuffle.

Clarke said it had been a pleasure to lead the U.K. business since the merger of Henkell and Freixenet, and he said he was proud of the leadership team that had been developed. He added that he believed the incoming executives would continue to advance the company’s brands with the same commitment to quality, tradition and celebration.

Copestick also described the transition as the start of a new phase. He said it had been both an honor and enjoyable to serve as managing director of Copestick Murray and later Freixenet Copestick. He noted that when the company was formed in 2005, he did not imagine it would become as successful as it has, and said he is now looking forward both to seeing the new team lead the business and to taking up his new role within Henkell Freixenet.