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Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton: LVMH

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Sector: Consumer Discretionary

Industry: Textiles, Apparel and Luxury Goods

Current Price: \$249.50 Target Price: \$293.24

Company Description: LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE is a luxury goods company. Its business activities are divided into various business groups, including Wines & Spirits, Fashion & Leather Goods, Perfumes & Cosmetics, Watches & Jewelry, Selective retailing and Other activities. The Company has approximately 70 brands and over 3,950 stores around the world. It produces still and sparkling wines from various wine-growing regions, as well as whiskey. The Fashion & Leather Goods business group includes brands, such as Louis Vuitton, Fendi, Donna Karan, Loewe...It focuses on the perfumes, make-up and skincare business, and offers a range of brands, including Christian Dior, Guerlain and Kenzo. The Watches & Jewelry sector operates in two segments: high-quality watchmaking, and jewelry and high jewelry.

BUY

 Current Price:
 \$249.50

 Target Price:
 \$293.24

 Market Cap:
 125.308B

 Average volume:
 648,880K

 Gross margin:
 66.33%

 EPS
 11.92

 EBT Margin:
 20.08%



Thesis:

LVMH reported excellent results since their first merger. During the last Quarter LVMH recorded an outstanding financial marks with a double-digit increase in both revenue and profit. Due to the standards of the quality and creativity that LVMH offers, in addition to their strategy of acquiring more brands and expanding their stores throughout the world; the company will indeed keep attesting remarkable performance in the long-term.

Catalysts:

- Short Term(within the year): Growth in EU, US and Asia
- Long Term (3+): Higher growth in all the segments.
 - -Acquiring more luxury brands
 - -Expanding more in the Asian market and throughout the world





Business Overview:



LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton is the world's largest luxury goods company, with brands that are bywords for the good life and everything showy. LVMH makes wines and spirits (Dom PERIGNON, Moet & Chandon, Veuve

Clicquot, and Hennessy), perfumes (Christian Dior, Guerlain and Givenchy), cosmetics (Nude, Fresh, and Benefit), fashion and leather goods (Donna Karan, Givenchy, Kenzo, and Louis Vuitton), and watches and jewelry (TAG Hauer, Bulgari). LVMH's selective retail division includes Sephora cosmetics stores, Le Bon Marche Paris department stores, and 61% of DFS Group (duty-free shops). Chairman Bernard Arnault, the richest man in France and his family own about 46% of LVMH through Group Arnault.LVMH acquire Christian; Dior in a \$12 billion in 2017.

Mergers and Acquisition:



LVMH started their merger history in year 1987; a \$4 billion merger was effected between Louis Vuitton with Moet-Hennessy, which allowed LV to expand its investments in the luxury business, while saving Moet-Hennessy from the threat of takeover. Later on, in 1988 LVMH acquired Givenchy and Berluti, this acquiring expansion on luxury brands continued until 2017 when the company has acquired Christian Dior \$13.1 Billion deal.

In 2016, LVMH acquired Germany luxury baggage Rimowa for 640 million. The Acquisition increased LVMH's exposure to the growing luxury tourism market.

In 2018 LVMH's investment arm L Catterton acquired US HVAC Airxcel. The company produces heating, ventilation and related appliances for RVs, classrooms, and telecommunications enclosures under brands including Coleman-Mach, MaxxAir, Suburban, Dicor and more.

Financial Performance:

LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world's leading luxury products group, recorded revenue of €42.6 billion in 2017, and an increase of 13% over the previous year. Organic revenue growth was 12%. All business groups recorded double-digit organic growth with the exception of Wines and Spirits, whose growth in the second half was limited by supply constraints. With organic revenue growth of 11%, the trend seen since the beginning of the year continued into the fourth quarter. Profit from recurring operations reached €8 293 million in 2017, an increase of 18%. Operating margin reached 19.5%. Group share of net profit was €5 129 million, representing growth of 29%.



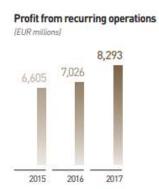


Euro millions	2016	2017	% change
Revenue	37 600	42 636	+ 13 %
Profit from recurring operations	7 026	8 293	+ 18 %
Group share of net profit	3 981	5 129	+ 29 %
Free cash flow*	3 974	4 754	+ 20 %
Net financial debt	3 265	7 178	+ 120 %
Total equity	27 903	30 260	+8%

^{*} Before available for sale financial assets and investments, transactions relating to equity and financing activities







Ownerships:

Institutions own 68.51% of LVMH Float. Investment advisors own 26.37% of the float with Capital Group Cos Inc. being the top holder with only 2.02%. BlackRock Inc. come on the second place owning 1.52% of the float. Followed by Vanguard Group Inc. who also own 1.38%. Holding company own 69.76% of the total float. Investment advisors have been adding to their positions, there is change in the rate of +0.63

54) Ownership Type	12/24/17	Curr	Change
41) Holding Company	70.52	69.76	-0.76
40 Investment Advisor	25.74	26.37	+0.63
43) Sovereign Wealth Fund	1.61	1.73	+0.12
44) Government	0.9	0.89	-0.01
45) Pension Fund	0.71	0.56	-0.15
40 Individual		0.24	
47) Insurance Company	0.16	0.19	+0.03
40 Bank	0.08	0.11	+0.03
49) Hedge Fund Manager	0.09	0.05	-0.04

between the past year and the current year. Which mean that they see the stock as a safe haven within the industry.





Performance by segment:

Fashion and Leather Goods: the group achieved organic revenue growth of 13% in 2017. On a reported basis, revenue growth was up 21% and profit from recurring operations increased by 27%. Louis Vuitton continued to demonstrate outstanding creativity across all of its businesses, maintaining a good balance between innovations and the strengthening of its iconic product lines. New products arising from the collaborations with the artist Jeff Koons as well as the Supreme brand, the launch of the brand's first smart watch and the inauguration of the Maison Louis Vuitton Vendôme in Paris were among the key events of the year. Christian Dior Couture, whose business became fully consolidated within the Group in the second half, achieved an excellent performance.

Perfumes & Cosmetic: the group recorded organic revenue growth of 14%. On a reported basis, revenue growth was 12% and profit from recurring operations increased by 9%. Perfumes Christian Dior grew market share in all regions, driven by the worldwide success of its fragrance *Sauvage* and the vitality of its iconic perfumes *J'adore* and *Miss Dior*. The makeup segment grew strongly too.

Watches & Jewelry: the group recorded organic revenue growth of 12%. On a reported basis, revenue growth was 10% and profit from recurring operations increased by 12%. Bylgari achieved an excellent performance and continued to gain market share thanks to the strength of its iconic lines *Serpenti*, *B.Zero1*, *Diva* and *Octo*. Growth was particularly strong in Asia, the United States and Europe.

Selective Retailing business group recorded organic revenue growth of 13%. On a reported basis, revenue growth was 11% and profit from recurring operations was up 17%. Sephora continued to gain market share. Its growth was particularly strong in North America and Asia. A new territory, Germany, was inaugurated, while Sephora expanded its online presence in Scandinavia, Mexico and the Middle East. The year 2017 was a positive turning point for DFS, with better-positioned markets, especially in the second half. The new stores in Cambodia and Italy continued to grow.





Revenue by business group:

Euro millions	2016	2017	% change 2017/2016	
			Reported	Organic*
Wines & Spirits	4 835	5 084	+5%	+7%
Fashion & Leather Goods	12 775	15 472	+ 21 %	+ 13 %
Perfumes & Cosmetics	4 953	5 560	+ 12 %	+ 14 %
Watches & Jewelry	3 468	3 805	+ 10 %	+ 12 %
Selective Retailing	11 973	13 311	+ 11 %	+ 13 %
Other activities and eliminations	(404)	(596)	1	-
Total LVMH	37 600	42 636	+ 13 %	+ 12 %

Profit from recurring operations by business group:

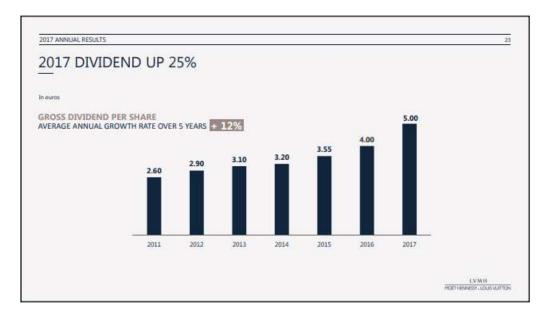
Euro millions	2016	2017	% change
Wines & Spirits	1 504	1 558	+4%
Fashion & Leather Goods	3 873	4 905	+ 27 %
Perfumes & Cosmetics	551	600	+9%
Watches & Jewelry	458	512	+ 12 %
Selective Retailing	919	1 075	+ 17 %
Other activities and eliminations	(279)	(357)	-
Total LVMH	7 026	8 293	+ 18 %

Dividends:

At the Annual Shareholders' Meeting on April 12, 2018, LVMH will propose a dividend of \in 5 per share, an increase of 25%. An interim dividend of \in 1.60 per share was paid on December 7 of last year. The balance of \in 3,40 per share will be paid on April 19, 2018.

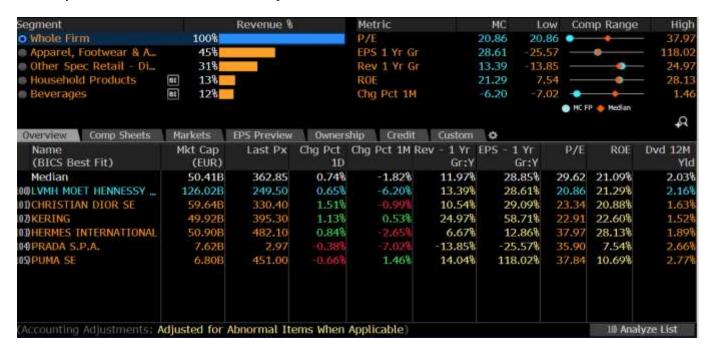






Competition:

Retailers offering products that are unique have a distinct and absolute advantage over their competitors. LVMH have had great results in 2017 especially in Q4. LVMH has a strong image and a high value. However, the fact that the company holds 7 different sectors, cannot really be compared to other companies that operates in a single sector. Yet as seen below, the main competitors of LVMH are Christian Dior, KERING, Hermes International and Prada. LVMH takes the first position comparing a market cap of 126.02B vs 59.64B Christian Dior that comes on the second place, the gap between each of the competitors market cap is huge. YoY revenue growth is 13.39% for LVMH, in addition to a YoY EPS growth of 28.61% that is relatively median in contrast to other competitors.







Conclusion:

In conclusion, I recommend LVMH stock as a buy. The company has been having excellent results especially in 2017, these results reflected the strong desirability of LVMH brands and the effectiveness of the company's strategy. LVMH had a double-digit increase in both revenue and profit from their recurring operations. There was a strong growth in Asia and US and an outstanding momentum at LV, the profitability remained at an exceptional level. In addition to an excellence performance at all the sectors. Cash from operations before changed in working capital was 5.5B euros, an increase of 21% and a net to debt ratio of 23% at the end of Q4. LVMH is expected to keep showing a great results on the long term, in reflection to their expansion in Asia and EU and following their strategy of acquiring more luxury brands into their sectors.

