

Company history

More than 175 years of chocolate heritage

The Barry Callebaut Group, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, resulted from a merger in 1996 between two iconic chocolate makers, the Belgian Callebaut and the French Cacao Barry. During the past quarter of a century, Barry Callebaut Group became the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality chocolate and cocoa products, mastering every step in the value chain from the sourcing of raw materials to the production of the finest chocolates. We are the heart and engine of the chocolate industry and our mission is to be number one in all attractive customer segments. We are a business-to-business company, fully vertically integrated with a strong position in cocoa-origin countries and a unique global footprint.

Some important milestones in Barry Callebaut's history



2023

- Acquisition of a production unit from Attelli, Morocco

- Barry Callebaut introduces second generation chocolate, redesigning cocoa bean farming, fermentation and roasting
- Barry Callebaut opens a Business Excellence Centre in Malaysia to support growth in the entire region
- Barry Callebaut launches a partnership with Nestlé to support large-scale agroforestry tree planting projects in Ivory Coast
- Barry Callebaut opens its 2nd Chocolate Academy in the US, located in the heart of New York City
- Barry Callebaut and shipping and logistics company Maersk enter into a long-term partnership
- Peter Feld is appointed new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Barry Callebaut Group
- Barry Callebaut adds new ambitions to its Forever Chocolate initiative for a sustainable cocoa supply chain
- Unilever and Barry Callebaut extend a strategic cocoa and chocolate sourcing agreement
- Barry Callebaut announces BC Next Level, a CHF 500 million strategic investment program

2022

- Barry Callebaut recognized as Supplier Engagement Leader by CDP
- Launch of Callebaut NXT, 100% plant-based chocolate
- Expansion of chocolate factory in Campbellfield, Australia, completed
- Grupo Bimbo and Barry Callebaut extend strategic supply agreement
- Barry Callebaut establishes in Ecuador a state-of-the art cocoa export facility
- Barry Callebaut to set up own distribution network in South Africa
- New CHOCOLATE ACADEMY™ Center in Casablanca, Morocco
- Business Excellence Center in Asia Pacific opened
- Long-term distribution agreement with Levapan to expand in Latin America
- Groundbreaking of its new specialty chocolate factory in Brantford, Canada
- Barry Callebaut relocates office and Chocolate ACADEMY™ Center to the heart of Shanghai, China
- Sustainalytics ranks Barry Callebaut #1 for management of ESG risks
- Barry Callebaut introduces the second generation of chocolate

2021

- Launch of “#oneBC”, Barry Callebaut’s new Diversity & Inclusion Strategy
- Recognized by CDP as Supplier Engagement Leader, for second consecutive year

- Announcement of strategic partnership with Garudafood to distribute Van Houten professional products in Indonesia
- Announcement of cooperation between Cocoa Horizons and Seekewa
- Official opening of a new chocolate factory in Baramati, India
- Opening of dedicated dairy free factory in Norderstedt, Germany
- Barry Callebaut initiates Treat Tomorrow to shape chocolate indulgence for the decade to come
- Barry Callebaut announces CEO succession, effective Sept 1, 2021: Peter Boone to succeed Antoine de Saint-Affrique
- Cocoa pioneer brand Van Houten launches first ever Ruby chocolate drink powder
- Cacao Barry launches WholeFruit Evocao™, the first signature expression of WholeFruit chocolate
- Cabosse Naturals winner at Sustainable Food Awards 2021
- Acquisition of Europe Chocolate Company (ECC), Belgium
- Significant outsourcing agreement in North America
- Outsourcing agreement with Atlantic Stark in Serbia
- New factory in Kaliningrad, the 3rd in Russia
- Hershey and Barry Callebaut extend strategic supply agreement
- Inauguration of chocolate factory in Novi Sad, Serbia
- Barry Callebaut unveils Elix, the first nutraceutical fruit drink
- Inauguration of the world's largest and most sustainable chocolate warehouse in Lokeren, Belgium
- The global decoration brand Mona Lisa expands to Mexico, its 50th market globally

2020

- Barry Callebaut inaugurates its revamped CHOCOLATE ACADEMY™ Center in Banbury, UK
- Barry Callebaut introduces 100% dairy-free 'Milk Chocolate' as part of the indulgent 'Plant Craft' range
- Barry Callebaut, through its global decoration brand Mona Lisa, opens world's first 3D Printing Studio to craft unseen chocolate experiences
- Completion of acquisition of GKC Foods in Australia
- Barry Callebaut discloses its direct cocoa suppliers in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon

2019

- Transaction with Burton's Biscuit Company in the UK completed
- Acquisition of Inforum in Russia completed
- Barry Callebaut successfully places its first Schuldscheindarlehen
- Opening of new office and CHOCOLATE ACADEMY™ Center in Beijing, China

- Major expansion of cocoa processing capacities in Côte d'Ivoire
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Serbia and the City of Novi Sad to construct a first chocolate factory in Southeastern Europe
- Barry Callebaut to build new Global Distribution Center in Lokeren, Belgium
- Groundbreaking of new chocolate factory in Baramati, India
- Start-up of new chocolate factory in Rancaekek, Indonesia
- Opening of the 23rd CHOCOLATE ACADEMY™ Center in Antwerp, Belgium

2018

- Barry Callebaut introduces sensory language and tasting ritual for chocolate
- KitKat is the first brand in the world to launch Ruby chocolate version
- Barry Callebaut acquires Inforum in Russia
- Barry Callebaut enters into long-term supply agreement with Burton's Biscuit Company
- Moody's upgrades Barry Callebaut to Investment Grade
- Opening of a CHOCOLATE ACADEMY™ center in South Africa
- Barry Callebaut intensifies cooperation on a sustainable cocoa farming model with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

2017

- Barry Callebaut reveals the fourth type in chocolate: Ruby
- Barry Callebaut acquires Ingredients Division of Gertrude Hawk Chocolate
- Barry Callebaut acquires D'Orsogna Dolciaria
- Driving sustainable cane sugar production: Barry Callebaut joins Bonsucro
- Barry Callebaut couples sustainability with its renewed banking credit facility
- Barry Callebaut opens its Chocolate Academy center in Milan, Italy
- Barry Callebaut and the Chocolate Academy Mexico announced the opening of their new offices in Mexico City
- Mona Lisa Announces Shift to HORIZONS Program as Cocoa Source for Decorative Chocolate Products
- American Almond celebrates move to new facility
- La Morella Nuts is launching a new range of organic Mediterranean nuts

2016

- Barry Callebaut closed the acquisition of the commercial beverages vending activities of FrieslandCampina Kievit, making it a leading supplier of vending powder mixes
- Strategic partnership with Tony's Chocolonely to produce chocolate from fully traceable cocoa
- Partnership with the IFC and the IDH to provide credit to farmers and cooperatives successful placement of corporate bond
- Opening of Beverage Academy in Sweden
- Barry Callebaut to extend strategic supply partnership with Mondelez International in Belgium / Halle factory
- Barry Callebaut joins the 25 most sustainable listed companies in Switzerland in the S&P 500 Sustainability 25® index
- Barry Callebaut celebrates grand opening of its first chocolate factory in Gresik/Indonesia
- Barry Callebaut expands chocolate manufacturing facility in Singapore
- Barry Callebaut publishes new sustainability strategy "Forever Chocolate"
- Barry Callebaut announces further capacity investments at its American Canyon factory in California
- Andreas Jacobs steps down from his post at the Shareholders Meeting.
- Patrick De Maeseneire elected as new Chairman
- Barry Callebaut completes acquisition of chocolate production facility in Halle, Belgium

2015

- Barry Callebaut signs a licensing agreement with Naturex to market approved health claim on cocoa extracts
- Launch of the HORIZONS sustainable products and the Cocoa Chronicles
- Barry Callebaut acquires Nyonkopa to cover growing customer need for sustainable and traceable cocoa from Ghana
- Barry Callebaut to partner with Mondelez to scale up their Cocoa Life program
- Launch of the Cocoa Horizons Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and their communities
- Announcement of a new partnership with the Hershey Company to improve the livelihoods of thousands of farmers in Côte d'Ivoire
- Opening of a new Chocolate Academy center in Japan, the Group's 19th training center in the world and its fourth in Region Asia Pacific

- GarudaFood and Barry Callebaut enter long-term supply agreement in Indonesia - Barry Callebaut's first compound chocolate outsourcing agreement in Southeast Asia
- Announcement of Antoine de Saint Affrique to become the new CEO of Barry Callebaut as of October 1, 2015
- Signing of an agreement to acquire the customer portfolio, brands, recipes and manufacturing equipment from nut products manufacturer American Almond Products Co., Inc. (U.S.)
- Launch of new chocolate and compound recipes with a higher thermo-tolerance
- Barry Callebaut opens first Cocoa Application Center in Asia Pacific in Pasir Gudang, Malaysia, to drive future growth of its customers
- Barry Callebaut joins leading industry initiatives to develop sustainable supply chains
- European Commission extends Barry Callebaut's health claim on Acticoa products to cocoa extracts
- Establishing a Shared Service Center (SSC) in Łódź, Poland, for bundling transactional activities in Europe
- Inauguration of a new, modernized chocolate academy center in Russia's capital Moscow
- Barry Callebaut together with FIB (Flanders Institute for Biotechnology) and KU Leuven (University of Leuven) optimize the cocoa fermentation process with a newly developed yeast
- The Barry Callebaut Group awarded with a new patent on reduced fat chocolate
- Signing of a long-term outsourcing agreement with World's Finest® Chocolate based in Chicago, U.S., including acquisition of their manufacturing assets
- Building of a new compound chocolate factory in Pune, India
- Opening of a new Chocolate Academy center in Cologne, Germany
- Opening of the first Chocolate Academy center in the Middle East in Dubai

2014

- Official inauguration of Barry Callebaut's first chocolate factory in Chile
- Expansion plans announced for the chocolate factory Łódź, Poland
- Announcement about the expansion of the Brazilian chocolate factory in Extrema
- Organization of 2nd international stakeholder conference Chocovision in Davos
- Opening of new Callebaut flagship Chocolate Academy center in Wieze
- EFSA approval to extend existing health claim for cocoa extract products

- Acting as leading force to form the “CocoaAction” strategy of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)
- Acquisition of the remaining 51% stake of the Biolands Group
- Start of production in new, relocated chocolate factory in Tagasaki (Japan)

2013

- Inauguration of the 16th chocolate academy center on the premises of the Barry Callebaut Group’s EEMEA headquarters in Istanbul
- Inauguration of the Group’s first chocolate factory in Turkey located in Eskişehir
- EU Commission approves Barry Callebaut’s health claim on cocoa flavanols
- Opening of a cocoa factory in Makassar, Indonesia (with joint venture partner P.T. Comextra Majora)
- Inauguration of the first Cocoa Center of Excellence to promote advanced agricultural techniques in Côte d’Ivoire
- Acquisition of the cocoa business of Singapore-based Petra Foods
- Opening of an expanded state-of-the-art chocolate factory in Toluca, Mexico
- Acquisition of ASM Foods AB in Sweden and signing of first long-term outsourcing agreement in Scandinavia with Carletti A/S
- Signing of first long-term outsourcing agreement in South America with Arcor

2012

- EFSA issues positive Scientific Opinion on Barry Callebaut’s health claim on cocoa flavanols
- Signing of long-term outsourcing/partnership agreement with Unilever, Grupo Bimbo (Mexico) and Morinaga (Japan)
- Purchasing Chatham facility from Batory Industries Company in Ontario (Canada)
- Launch of new “Cocoa Horizons” initiative based on strategic pillar Sustainable Cocoa
- Acquisition of the Spanish la Morella nuts
- Acquisition of American chocolate decorations manufacturer Mona Lisa Food Products, Inc.

2011

- Barry Callebaut and P.T. Comextra Majora enter into a joint venture to form P.T. Barry Callebaut Comextra Indonesia
- Sale of European Consumer Products business to Belgian Baronie Group
- Signing of long-term outsourcing agreement with Chocolates Turín, Mexico
- Expansion of the existing supply and innovation agreement with Hershey's
- Acquisition of remaining 40% stake in Barry Callebaut Malaysia Sdn Bhd, formerly KLK Cocoa

2010

- Signing of a major outsourcing contract with Kraft Foods Inc.
- Opening of a chocolate factory in Extrema, Brazil signing of a major outsourcing contract with Kraft Foods Inc.

2009

- Acquisition of Spanish chocolate maker Chocovic, S.A
- Acquisition of Danish vending mix company Eurogran
- Distribution agreement signed with Bunge Alimentos in Brazil
- Sale of Van Houten Singapore consumer business to Hershey's

2008

- Opening of a chocolate factory in Monterrey, Mexico
- Outsourcing agreement with Morinaga in Japan and start of production in new factory
- Acquisition of IBC, specialist in decorations, in Kortrijk-Heule, Belgium
- Sale of African Consumer business
- Opening of Chocolate Academy centers in Suzhou (China), Zundert (Netherlands), Mumbai (India), Chekhov (Russia) and Chicago (U.S.)
- Opening of a sales office and Chocolate Academy center in Mumbai, India
- Acquisition of a 60% stake in KLK Cocoa in Malaysia
- Acquisition of a 49% stake in Biolands, Tanzania
- Opening of a chocolate factory in Suzhou, China

2007

- Acquisition of a cocoa factory in Pennsylvania, U.S.
- Signing of major outsourcing contracts with Nestlé, Hershey's and Cadbury

- Divestment of Brach's Confections Holding, Inc. in the U.S.
- Opening of a chocolate factory in Chekhov, Russia

2005

- Opening of a chocolate factory in California, U.S.

2004

- Opening of a chocolate factory in California, U.S.

2003

- Acquisition of Brach's Confections Holding, Inc. in the U.S
- Acquisition of Dutch Group Graverboom B.V. (including Luijckx B.V.)

2002

- Acquisition of the Stollwerck Group in Germany

1999

- Acquisition of Carma AG in Switzerland

1998

- Barry Callebaut (BARN) is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange

1997

- Barry Callebaut grows through geographic expansion into strategic growth markets and outsourcing contracts

1996

- The Belgian chocolate producer Callebaut and the French chocolate company Cacao Barry join forces, creating a new company called Barry Callebaut