

D. Risk Factors

RISKS RELATING TO CHILE

We are substantially dependent on economic conditions in Chile, which may adversely impact the results of our operations and financial condition.

Chile is our most significant market. The Chile Operating segment generated 62% of our sales revenues in 2018, the International Business Operating segment (which includes Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay) contributed 27%, and the Wine Operating segment, including the domestic markets in Chile and Argentina, as well as exports, accounted for 11% of revenues. Thus, our operating and financial performance is dependent, to a large extent, on the overall level of economic activity in Chile. The Chilean economy experienced an average annual growth rate (measured by GDP) of 3.0% between 2008 and 2018, and 4.0% in 2018. In the past, slower economic growth in Chile resulted in a decline in the growth rate of consumption of our products and, consequently, adversely affected our profitability. Chile's economic growth rate has been affected in the past by the disruption in the global financial markets, as was the case in 2009. Therefore, economic growth rates of past periods cannot be extrapolated to future performance.

Furthermore, Chile, as an emerging market economy, is more exposed to unfavorable conditions in the international markets, which could have a negative impact on the demand for our products, as well as on third parties with whom we conduct business with. Any combination of lower consumer confidence, disrupted global capital markets and/or depressed international economic conditions could have a negative impact on the Chilean economy and, consequently, on our business. In addition, a global liquidity crisis or an increase in interest rates could limit our ability to obtain the cash necessary to meet our commitments and, therefore, increase our financial expenses.

The Company has implemented efficiency and revenue management plans, as well as cost and expense improvements through the "ExCCelencia CCU" program. CCU has also diversified its operations geographically in recent years. The Company's conservative capital structure and high liquidity have contributed to its Level 1 classification by credit rating agencies Fitch Chile Clasificadores de Riesgo Limitada and International Credit Rating Compañía Clasificadora de Riesgo Limitada ("ICR"). The Company's bonds are also rated AA+ by both rating agencies. However, securities ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time, and there can be no guarantee that the Company's foregoing initiatives will insulate it from the effects of any such downturns or negative conditions.

Currency fluctuations may affect our profitability

Because we purchase the majority of our supplies at prices set in USD and we export wine in prices set in USD, Canadian dollars, euros and pounds, we are exposed to foreign exchange risks that may adversely affect our financial condition and the results of our operations. The effect of the exchange rate variation on export revenues partially offsets the FX impact on the cost of raw materials expressed in CLP.

The relative liquidity and volatility of Chilean securities markets may increase the price volatility of our American Depositary Shares ("ADSs") and adversely impact a holder's ability to sell any shares of our common stock withdrawn from our American Depositary Receipt ("ADR") facility.

The Chilean securities markets are substantially smaller, less liquid and more volatile than major securities markets in the United States. For example, the Santiago Stock Exchange, which is Chile's principal stock exchange, had a market capitalization of approximately USD 250.1 billion as of December 31, 2018, while The New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") had a market capitalization of approximately USD 28.5 trillion and the NASDAQ National Market ("NASDAQ") had a market capitalization of approximately USD 13.7 trillion as of the same date. In addition, the Chilean securities markets can be materially affected by developments in other emerging markets, particularly other countries in Latin America.

The lower liquidity and greater volatility of the Chilean markets relative to markets in the United States could increase the price volatility of the ADSs and may impair a holder's ability to sell shares of our common stock withdrawn from the ADR facility in the Chilean market in the amount, at the price and at the time the holder wishes to do so. See "Item 9: The Offer and Listing".

We are subject to different corporate disclosure requirements and accounting standards than U.S. companies.

Although the securities laws of Chile that govern open stock corporations and publicly listed companies such as us promote disclosure of all material corporate information to the public as a principal objective, Chilean disclosure requirements differ from those in the United States in certain important respects. In addition, although Chilean law imposes restrictions on insider trading and price manipulation, the Chilean securities market is not as highly regulated and supervised as the U.S. securities market. We have been subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act since our initial public offering of ADSs in September 1992.

RISKS RELATING TO ARGENTINA

We are substantially dependent on economic conditions in Argentina, which may adversely impact our operating results and financial position.

In addition to our Chilean operations, we have significant assets in Argentina and we generate significant income from our operations in this country.

The financial position and results of our operations in Argentina are, to a considerable extent, dependent upon political and economic conditions prevailing in Argentina, as demand for beverage products generally depends on the prevailing economic conditions in the local market. In the past, Argentina has suffered recessions, high levels of inflation, currency devaluations and significant economic decelerations in various periods of its history. During 2016, Argentina's GDP contracted by 2.3% and inflation was close to 40%. In 2017, GDP growth was 2.8% and inflation was close to 20%, showing a slight recovery in the economy. However, in 2018 Argentina's GDP again experienced an estimated contraction of 3.5% and inflation of 47.6%. Consequently, given that the cumulative inflation rate exceeded 100% in the last three years, Argentina, as prescribed by IAS 29, was declared a hyperinflationary economy as of July 1, 2018 (see Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements included herein).

Inflationary pressures in Argentina may negatively impact demand for our goods, profitability and future investments.

Argentina has faced and continues to face inflationary pressures. The increase in inflationary risk may erode macroeconomic growth and limit the availability of financing, causing a negative impact on our operations. In the past, during periods of high inflation, the Argentine government has regulated prices of consumer goods, including beverages, which has impacted our profitability. Even without government regulation, high inflation may impede our ability to pass on higher costs to customers, which would also negatively impact profitability.

The Argentine peso is subject to volatility which could adversely affect our results.

A depreciation of the Argentine peso may negatively affect our consolidated financial results. Our Argentine subsidiaries use the Argentine peso as their functional currency and their financial statements are translated to CLP for consolidation purposes, which may produce variations to the Company's consolidated net income and shareholders' equity, due to translation effects. Also, most of our raw material costs in Argentina are indexed to the dollar. When comparing the average exchange rates for each period, the Argentine peso depreciated against the USD by 60% in 2016, by 12% in 2017, and by 68% in 2018. When comparing the exchange rate as of the end of each period, the Argentine peso depreciated against the USD by 22% in 2016, by 17% in 2017, and 107% in 2018. All of the above resulted in a significant translation effect in our reported revenues, costs and expenses, as well as pressure on dollarized costs.

Given that we cannot predict how macroeconomic conditions will evolve in the future in Argentina, nor when Argentina will cease to qualify as a hyperinflationary economy for accounting purposes, we cannot foresee how CCU's business will be affected by Argentina's future macroeconomic environment. In order to mitigate the impact of the current macroeconomic challenges, CCU Argentina has implemented efficiency and revenue management plans, as well as cost and expense improvements through the "ExCCelencia CCU" program. However, we cannot guarantee that our business will not be materially affected by Argentina's macroeconomic environment.

Argentina's legal regime and economy are susceptible to changes that could adversely affect our Argentine operations.

Measures taken by previous Argentine governments to address the country's economic crises severely affected the stability of Argentina's financial system and have had a materially negative impact on the country's economy. These measures included, among others, different methods to directly and indirectly regulate price increases of various consumer goods, including beer, with the intention of reducing inflation. Additionally, the measures implemented in the past to control the country's trade balance and exchange rate negatively impacted the free import of goods and the repatriation of profits. This situation changed in December 2015. However, we cannot guarantee that the authorities in Argentina will not implement legal and economic measures that may adversely affect our operations in Argentina.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

Possible changes in tax laws in the countries where we operate could affect our business and, in particular, changes in corporate and excise taxes could adversely affect our results and investments.

Our businesses are subject to different taxes in the countries where we operate, including, among others, income taxes and specific taxes on alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. An increase in the rates or application of these taxes, or any other, could negatively affect our sales and profitability.

In Argentina, a tax reform bill was passed by Congress that, among other measures, gradually reduces the income tax rate for profits from 35% to 25% (30% for 2018 and 2019 and 25% from 2020 onwards), starting in 2018. In addition, dividends to be distributed will be subject to a withholding tax that will gradually increase from 0% to 13% (7% for 2018 and 2019 and 13% from 2020 onwards) applicable starting in 2018. In addition, the excise tax levied on various beverages was increased, including the excise tax on beer, which increased from 8% to 14% over the manufacturer's sale price. In the case of wine, there was no change; therefore, wine continues to not be subject to an excise tax.

Fluctuations in the cost of our raw materials may adversely impact our profitability if we were unable to pass those costs on to our customers.

We purchase malt, rice and hops for beer, sugar for soft drinks, grapes for wine, pisco and cocktails, and packaging materials from local producers or in the international market. The prices of those materials are subject to volatility caused by market conditions, and have experienced significant fluctuations over time reflecting global supply and demand for commodities as well as other factors, such as fluctuations in exchange rates, over which we have no control.

Although we historically have been able to implement price increases in response to increases in raw material costs, we cannot assure you that our ability to recover increases in the cost of raw materials will continue in the future. If we are unable to increase prices in response to increases in raw material costs, any future increases in raw material costs may reduce our margins and profitability if we are not able to offset such cost increases through efficiency improvements or other measures.

Consolidation in the beer industry may impact our market share.

In all the countries where we operate, we compete with Anheuser-Busch InBev S.A./N.V. (“ABI”) and its subsidiaries, the largest beer company in the world. ABI has expanded globally in recent years, through a series of mergers and acquisitions, and today has more than 500 brands and operations in 50 countries.

The foregoing consolidation in the market, as well as any further consolidation of our competitors, may increase their pricing and/or investment competitiveness, which could negatively affect our market share, and accordingly our results.

Competition in the Chilean beer market may erode our market share and lower our profitability.

Our largest competitor in the Chilean beer market by volume is Cervecería Chile S.A. (“Cervecería Chile”), a subsidiary of ABI. In the past, Cervecería Chile has implemented aggressive commercial practices. Additionally, Cervecería Chile is in the process of expanding its production capacity in Chile. If Cervecería Chile continues its aggressive commercial practices in the future and completes its expansion plans, we cannot assure you that this or other competitive activities will not have a material adverse effect on our profitability or market share.

Quilmes dominates the beer market in Argentina and we may not be able to maintain our current market share.

In Argentina we face competition from Cervecería y Maltería Quilmes S.A.I.C. (“Quilmes”), a subsidiary of ABI. As a result of its dominant position and large size in Argentina, Quilmes has significantly larger economies of scale than us in both production and distribution.

In the second quarter of 2018, Compañía Cervecerías Unidas Argentina S.A. (“CCU Argentina”) and ABI executed a transaction (the “Transaction”) that primarily consisted in the transfer of brands and cash in exchange for the early termination of the Budweiser brand license agreement in Argentina. In the Transaction, CCU Argentina received five brands (Isenbeck, Diosa, Iguana, Norte, Báltica) and the licenses of two international brands (Grolsch and Warsteiner). As a result, CCU Argentina began commercializing Isenbeck and Diosa, and stopped selling Budweiser. ABI, through its local subsidiary, continues to produce and market Iguana, Norte, Báltica, Grolsch and Warsteiner, on behalf of CCU Argentina. If we fail to maintain the volume and price levels of this new brand portfolio, we may not be able to maintain our current market share and profitability.

Changes in the labor market in the countries in which we operate may affect margins in our business.

In all the countries where we operate, we are exposed to changes in the labor market that could affect our profitability and future growth. These changes could include fluctuations in the labor supply, as well as changes in labor legislation, among others. In Argentina, high levels of inflation and union pressure may affect our salary expenses.

The foregoing, as well as the implementation of new labor regulations, could have an adverse effect on our expenses and negatively affect our margins.

We depend upon the renewal of certain license agreements to maintain our current operations.

Most of our license agreements include certain conditions that must be met during their term, as well as provisions for their renewal at their expiry date. We cannot guarantee that such conditions will be fulfilled, and therefore that the agreements will remain in place until their expiration or that they will be renewed, or that any of these contracts will not undergo early termination. While approximately two-thirds of our sales volume are derived from private label products, the termination of, or failure to renew our existing license agreements, could have an adverse impact on our operations.

Consolidation in the supermarket industry may affect our operations.

The Chilean supermarket industry has gone through a consolidation process, which has increased the purchasing power of a few supermarket chains. As a result, we may not be able to negotiate favorable prices, which could negatively affect our sales and profitability.

Additionally, and despite having insurance coverage, this supermarket chain consolidation has the effect of increasing our exposure to counterparty credit risk, given the fact that we have more exposure in the event one of these large customers fails to fulfill its payment obligations to us for any reason.

We depend on a single supplier for some important raw materials.

In the case of aluminum cans, both in Chile and Argentina, we purchase from a single supplier, Ball, which has production plants in both countries. However, if necessary, we could import aluminum cans from other plants from the same supplier or from alternative suppliers in the region. In Argentina, we purchase malt from a single supplier, Cargill, whose malt operations were recently acquired by Boortmalt. In the past, we have not experienced significant malt supply interruptions in Argentina. However, we cannot guarantee that we will not encounter a malt supply disruption in the future, nor can we guarantee that we will have the ability to obtain replacement supplies at favorable pricing or advantageous terms, which may adversely affect our future results.

Water supply is essential to the development of our businesses.

Water is an essential component for the production of our beverage products and the irrigation of our fields. While we have adopted policies for the responsible and sustainable use of water, a failure in our water supply or contamination of our wells could negatively affect our sales and profitability.

The Chilean Congress is currently discussing a bill that provides, among others, for a new regime of temporary water rights, which would apply to future water rights that are granted. The bill would also introduce a system of revocation of water rights, for those not in use. This bill could undergo modifications during its discussion in the Chilean Congress. The effects of any such regulations cannot be ascertained at this time, but may result in the Company losing certain water rights, which could adversely affect our future results.

The supply, production and logistics chain is key to the timely supply of our products to consumer centers.

Our supply, production and logistics chain is crucial for the delivery of our products to consumer centers. An interruption or a significant failure in this chain may negatively affect our results, if the failure is not quickly resolved. An interruption in the chain could be caused by various factors, such as strikes, utility shutdowns such as customs and ports, planning errors of our suppliers, terrorism, safety failures, complaints by communities, or other factors which are beyond our control.

If we are unable to protect our information systems against data corruption, cyber-based attacks or network security breaches, our operations could be disrupted.

We are increasingly dependent on information technology networks and systems, including the Internet, to process, transmit and store electronic information. In particular, we depend on our information technology infrastructure, including data centers, for sales, production, planning and logistics, marketing activities and electronic communications within the Company and with our clients, suppliers and our subsidiaries. Security breaches of this infrastructure can create system disruptions, shutdowns or unauthorized disclosure of confidential information. If we are unable to prevent such breaches, our operations could be disrupted, or we may suffer financial damage or loss because of lost or misappropriated information. The Company has taken measures to create a backup structure for its critical systems, but we cannot assure you that these measures will be sufficient.

Possible regulations for labeling materials and promotion of alcoholic beverages and other food products in the countries in which we operate could adversely affect us.

Law N° 20,606 of 2012 and Law N° 20,869 of 2015, relating to the Nutritional Composition of Foods and their Advertising and the complementary regulations, in force since June 2016, establish certain restrictions on the advertising, labelling and marketing of foods classified as "high" in certain defined critical nutrients, which affects a part of our portfolio of non-alcoholic beverages. We cannot assure you that this regulation will not have an impact on our sales volumes and, therefore, on our results.

A bill that modifies Law N° 18,455, which sets standards for the production, elaboration and commercialization of ethyl alcohol, alcoholic beverages and vinegar, is currently in the legislature. The bill aims to establish restrictions on promotion material, labeling and commercialization of alcoholic beverages, including warnings about the consumption of alcohol on labeling and promotional materials, restrictions on the time of day of promotions and the prohibition of promotions during sports and cultural events, among others. A regulatory change of this nature would affect our alcoholic beverages portfolio and certain marketing activities.

If further legislation or other regulations that restrict the sale of alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages is passed, it could affect the consumption of our products and, as a consequence, adversely impact our business.

New applicable environmental regulations could affect our business.

CCU's operations are subject to local, national and international environmental norms and regulations. These regulations cover, among other things, emissions, noise, disposal of solid and liquid wastes, and other activities inherent to our industry. On this topic, on June 1, 2016 Law N° 20,920 was enacted and established a framework for waste management and extended producer responsibility, and stimulation of recycling ("REP Law"), with the objective of lowering the generation of waste of priority products as determined by the bill and fostering recycling of the waste. On November 30, 2017, the Regulations on Procedures of the REP Law were published. During 2018, regulations were issued that established the collection, valorization and other associated obligations for tires, and we expect regulations for the collection, valorization and other associated obligations for packaging materials to be issued in 2019 (see "Item 4: Information on the Company - E. Environmental Matters"). CCU has been actively participating through the associations that represent the different industrial areas, in public and private discussion panels with respect to the development and implementation of these new regulations. Although none of the above environmental regulations, as they currently stand, represent a meaningful risk to the Company's operations, possible future regulations could have a significant effect on our business.

Catastrophic events in the regions in which we operate could have a significant adverse effect on our financial condition.

Natural disasters, climate change impact events or other catastrophic events could impair our ability to manufacture, distribute or sell our products. Failure to take adequate steps to mitigate the likelihood or potential impact of such events, or to manage such events effectively if they occur, could adversely affect our sales volume, cost and supply of raw materials, earnings and could have a significant effect on our business, operational results, and financial position.

Chile has been affected in the past by several natural disasters, including large floods, mudslides and forest fires. These events did not have a significant effect on our operations, although a future catastrophic event could have a significant effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

If we are unable to maintain the image and quality of our products and a good relationship with our clients and consumers, our financial results may suffer.

The image and quality of our products is essential for the success and development of the Company. Problems with product quality could tarnish the reputation of our products and may adversely affect our sales revenues. The Company must also ensure that our sales force provides good customer service and adapts to fulfill the needs and preferences of our consumers. If we are unable to maintain a good relationship with our clients and consumers, our financial results may suffer.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR ADSs

We are controlled by one majority shareholder, whose interests may differ from those of holders of our ADSs, and this shareholder may take actions that adversely affect the value of a holder's ADSs or common stock.

As of March 31, 2019, Inversiones y Rentas S.A. ("IRSA") a Chilean closely held corporation, directly and indirectly owned 60.0% of our shares of common stock. Accordingly, IRSA has the power to control the election of most members of our board of directors and its interests may differ from those of the holders of our ADSs. IRSA also has significant influence in determining the outcome of any corporate transaction submitted to our shareholders for approval, including mergers, consolidations, the sale of all or substantially all of our assets and going-private transactions. In addition, actions by IRSA with respect to the disposal of the shares of common stock that it owns, or the perception that such actions may occur, may adversely affect the trading prices of our ADSs or common stock.

Chilean economic policies, currency fluctuations, exchange controls and currency devaluations may adversely affect the price of our ADSs.

The Chilean government's economic policies and any future changes in the value of the CLP relative to the USD could adversely affect the USD value and the return on any investment in our ADSs. The CLP has been subject to large nominal devaluations and appreciations in the past and may be subject to significant fluctuations in the future. For example, when comparing the average exchange rates for each period, the Chilean peso depreciated against the USD by 3.5% in 2016, appreciated by 4.1% in 2017, and appreciated by 1.4% in 2018. When comparing the exchange rate as of the end of each period, the Chilean peso depreciated against the USD by 5.7% in 2016, appreciated by 8.2% in 2017, and depreciated 13.0% in 2018. See "Item 3: Key Information - A. Selected Financial Data - Exchange Rates".

While our ADSs trade in USD, Chilean trading in the shares of our common stock underlying our ADSs is conducted in CLP. Cash distributions to be received by the depositary for the shares of our common stock underlying our ADSs will be denominated in CLP. The depositary will translate any CLP received by it to USD at the then-prevailing exchange rate with the purpose of making dividend and other distribution payments on the ADSs. If the value of the CLP declines relative to the USD, the value of our ADSs and any distributions to holders of our ADSs received from the depositary may be adversely affected. See "Item 8: Financial Information - A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information - Dividend Policy and Dividends".

For example, since our consolidated financial statements are reported in CLP, a decline in the value of the CLP against the dollar would reduce our earnings as reported in USD. Any dividend we may pay in the future would be denominated in CLP. A decline in the value of the CLP against the USD would reduce the USD equivalent of any such dividend. Additionally, in the event of a dividend or other distribution, if exchange rates fluctuate during any period of time when the ADS depositary cannot convert a foreign currency into dollars, a holder of our ADSs may lose some of the value of the distribution. Also, since dividends in Chile are subject to withholding taxes, which we retain until the following year when the exact amount to be paid is determined, if part of the retained amount is refunded to the shareholders, the amount received by holders of our ADSs would be subject to exchange rate fluctuations between the two dates.

Holders of our ADSs may be subject to certain risks due to the fact that holders of our ADSs do not hold shares of our common stock directly.

ADS holders may exercise voting rights associated with common stock only in accordance with the deposit agreement governing our ADSs. Accordingly, ADS holders will face practical limitations when exercising their voting rights because ADS holders must first receive a notice of a shareholders' meeting from the depositary and may then exercise their voting rights by instructing the depositary, on a timely basis, on how they wish to vote. This voting process necessarily will take longer for ADS holders than for direct common stock holders, who are able to exercise their vote by attending our shareholders' meetings. Therefore, if the depositary fails to receive timely voting instructions from some or all ADS holders, the depositary will assume that ADS holders agree to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by us to vote their ADSs on their behalf. Furthermore, ADS holders may not receive voting materials in time to instruct the depositary to vote. Accordingly, ADS holders may not be able to properly exercise their voting rights.

The right of a holder of our ADSs to force us to purchase the underlying shares of our common stock pursuant to Chilean corporate law upon the occurrence of certain events may be limited.

Because of the absence of legal precedent as to whether a shareholder that has voted both for and against a proposal, such as the depositary of our ADSs, may exercise withdrawal rights (as described in “Item 10. Additional Information – B. Memorandum and Articles of Association”) with respect to those shares voted against the proposal, there is doubt as to whether a holder of ADSs will be able to exercise withdrawal rights either directly or through the depositary for the shares of our common stock represented by their ADSs. Accordingly, for a holder of our ADSs to exercise its appraisal rights, it may be required to surrender its ADRs, withdraw the shares of our common stock represented by its ADSs, and vote the shares against the proposal.

In the past, Chile has imposed controls on foreign investment and repatriation of investments that affected investments in, and earnings from, our ADSs.

Equity investments in Chile by persons who are not Chilean residents have historically been subject to various exchange control regulations that restrict repatriation of investments and earnings therefrom. In April 2001, the Central Bank eliminated most of the regulations that affected foreign investors, although foreign investors still have to provide the Central Bank with information related to equity investments and must conduct such operations within the formal exchange market. Additional Chilean restrictions applicable to holders of our ADSs, the disposition of the shares underlying them, the repatriation of the proceeds from such disposition or the payment of dividends may be imposed in the future, and we cannot advise you as to the duration or impact of such restrictions if imposed. See also “Item 10: Additional Information – D. Exchange Controls”.

If for any reason, including changes in Chilean law, the depositary for our ADSs were unable to convert CLP to USD, investors would receive dividends and other distributions, if any, in CLP.

Preemptive rights to purchase additional shares of our common stock may be unavailable to holders of our ADSs in certain circumstances and, as a result, their ownership interest in our Company may be diluted.

The Ley sobre Sociedades Anónimas N° 18,046 (“Chilean Corporations Act”) and the Reglamento de Sociedades Anónimas, require us, whenever we issue new shares for cash, to grant preemptive rights to all holders of shares of our common stock, including shares of our common stock represented by ADSs, giving those holders the right to purchase a sufficient number of shares to maintain their existing ownership percentage. We may not be able to offer shares to holders of our ADSs pursuant to preemptive rights granted to our shareholders in connection with any future issuance of shares unless a registration statement under the Securities Act is effective with respect to those rights and shares, or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available.

We intend to evaluate at the time of any future offerings of shares of our common stock the costs and potential liabilities associated with any registration statement as well as the indirect benefits to us of enabling U.S. owners of our ADSs to exercise preemptive rights and any other factors that we consider appropriate at the time, before making a decision as to whether to file such a registration statement. We cannot assure you that any such registration statement would be filed.

To the extent that a holder of our ADSs is unable to exercise their preemptive rights because a registration statement has not been filed, the depositary will attempt to sell the holder’s preemptive rights and distribute the net proceeds of the sale, net of the depositary’s fees and expenses, to the holder, provided that a secondary market for those rights exists and a premium can be recognized over the cost of the sale. A secondary market for the sale of preemptive rights can be expected to develop if the subscription price of the shares of our common stock upon exercise of the rights is below the prevailing market price of the shares of our common stock. Nonetheless, we cannot assure you that a secondary market in preemptive rights will develop in connection with any future issuance of shares of our common stock or that if a market develops, a premium can be recognized on their sale. Amounts received in exchange for the sale or assignment of preemptive rights relating to shares of our common stock will be taxable in Chile and the United States. See “Item 10: Additional Information – E. Taxation – Chilean Tax Considerations – Capital Gains” and “– United States Federal Income Tax Considerations – Taxation of Capital Gains”. If the rights cannot be sold, they will expire and a holder of our ADSs will not realize any value from the grant of the preemptive rights. In either case, the equity interest of a holder of our ADSs in us will be diluted proportionately.

ITEM 4: Information on the Company

A. History and Development of the Company

Our current legal and commercial name is Compañía Cervecerías Unidas S.A. We are a public corporation (sociedad anónima abierta) organized by means of a public deed dated January 8, 1902, following the merger of two existing breweries, one of which traces its origins back to 1850, when Mr. Joaquín Plagemann founded one of the first breweries in Chile (in Valparaíso). By 1916, we owned and operated the largest brewing facilities in Chile. Our operations have also included the production and commercialization of soft drinks since the beginning of the last century, the bottling and selling of mineral water products since 1960, the production and commercialization of wine since 1994, the production and commercialization of beer in Argentina since 1995, the production and commercialization of pisco since 2003 and the production and commercialization of rum since 2007. Also, we had been involved in the production and commercialization of sweet snacks products from 2004 until December 2018.

We are subject to a full range of governmental regulation and supervision generally applicable to companies engaged in business in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. These regulations include labor laws, social security laws, public health, consumer protection and environmental laws, securities laws, and antitrust laws. In addition, regulations exist to ensure health and safety conditions in facilities for the production and distribution of beverages and sweet snacks products.

Our principal executive offices are located at Avenida Vitacura N°2670, 23rd floor, Santiago, Chile. Our telephone number in Santiago is (56-2) 2427-3000, and our website is www.ccu.cl. Our authorized representative in the United States is Puglisi & Associates, located at 850 Library Avenue, Suite 204, Newark, Delaware 19715, USA, telephone number (302) 738-6680 and fax number (302) 738-7210. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this document.

In 1986, IRSA, our current controlling shareholder, acquired its controlling interest in us through purchases of common stock at an auction conducted by a receiver who had assumed control of us following the economic crisis in Chile in the early 80's, which resulted in our inability to meet our obligations to our creditors. IRSA, at that time, was a joint venture between Quiñenco S.A. ("Quiñenco") and the Schörghuber Group from Germany, through its wholly owned subsidiary Finance Holding International B.V. ("FHI") of the Netherlands.

In September 1992, we issued 4,520,582 ADSs, each representing five shares of our common stock, in an international American Depositary Receipt ("ADR") offering. The underlying ADSs were listed and traded on the NASDAQ, until March 25, 1999. Since that date, the ADSs have been listed and traded on the NYSE. On December 20, 2012, the ratio of ADSs to shares of common stock was changed from 1 to 5, to a new ratio of 1 to 2.

Prior to November 1994, we independently produced, bottled and distributed carbonated and non-carbonated soft drinks in Chile. In November 1994, we merged our soft drink and mineral water businesses with the one owned by Buenos Aires Embotelladora S.A. ("BAESA") in Chile (PepsiCo's bottler in Chile at that time) creating Embotelladoras Chilenas Unidas S.A. ("ECUSA") for the production, bottling, distribution and commercialization of soft drink and mineral water products in Chile. Through ECUSA, we began producing PepsiCo brands under license. We have had control of ECUSA since January 1998, when the shareholders agreement was amended. On November 29, 1999 we purchased 45% of ECUSA's shares owned by BAESA for approximately CLP 54,118 million. We currently own 99.98% of ECUSA's shares. In January 2001, ECUSA and Schweppes Holdings Ltd. signed an agreement to continue bottling Crush and Canada Dry brands. See "Item 4. B. Business Overview - 4. Production and Marketing - Chile Operating segment".