

Press release  
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## **An enduring classic meets new materials: Thonet presents bentwood icons in its “Pure Materials” collection**

**At imm cologne 2015, Thonet extended its successful “Pure Materials” collection to include the brand’s famous bentwood classics. Elegant, grained leather and natural wood stains characterise this refined and especially sustainable range of finishes.**

**Over the course of time, a natural patina will develop with these finishes, as evidence of how each individual piece of furniture has been enjoyed and loved during its lifetime, creating a welcome addition to its aesthetic appeal.**

**Now the iconic “Vienna coffee house chair” 214 and other classic bentwood models 209, 210, 215 and 233 are available with this subtle new look, in a either a dark stained or light oiled ash wood finish, and with ultra-soft, vegetable-tanned leather upholstery.**



For the bentwood classics in the “Pure Materials” collection, the finest local German ash is used instead of European beech: this type of wood is wonderfully suitable for the traditional production method of bending and is a very strong and elastic timber with a characteristic open-pore grain. The ash is harvested through sustainable forestry and is treated only minimally in order to allow for the textural and visual experience of the natural material to shine through. Over the course of time and use, areas of the wooden furniture that are more intensely used become smoother, making each piece of furniture a uniquely personal companion. The chairs are offered in two versions: in the light oil finish, they add a warm, subtle ambiance; while the darkly stained protective natural lacquer version offers a stronger design accent.

The final touch of a seat cushion covered with beautifully smooth and soft leather not only assures the highest standards of comfort, but the rich tones of the material’s grain also create a sophisticated character. The natural “Olive Galicia” leather is neither scraped, embossed, nor lacquered, enhancing its tactile quality and allowing it to react to use and gradually develop its own individual patina. The tanning agent is derived from olive leaves: the result is a sustainable, ecological and high-quality premium leather.



As an alternative to the upholstered versions, Thonet also offers a more reduced solution in which the moulded seat is covered in only a very fine layer of leather.

The “Pure Materials” bentwood models are, of course, also available in the classic wickerwork and netting seat version, if preferred.

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#### **Thonet – future-oriented furniture design with a long tradition**

*The unique success story of Thonet began with the work of master carpenter Michael Thonet. Since establishing his first workshop in Boppard on the River Rhine in 1819, the name Thonet has stood for high-quality, innovative and elegant furniture. The breakthrough came with the iconic chair no. 14, the so-called Vienna coffee house chair: the innovative technique of bending solid beech wood for the first time enabled the mass production chairs. The second milestone in design history was the tubular steel furniture by the famous Bauhaus architects Mart Stam, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Marcel Breuer in the 1930s. At the time, Thonet was the world's largest producer of these tubular steel furniture designs, which are considered timeless today.*

*For the company today, the continuous process of innovation stands in the foreground alongside a focus on tradition and fine craftsmanship. Thonet collaborates with renowned national and international designers – in addition, some of the furniture is designed by the in-house Thonet Design Team. All of the furniture is produced in the company-owned manufacturing facility, and, following the motto “Individuality is our standard”, custom-tailored solutions are part of everyday life in Frankenberg. Thorsten Muck is the Managing Director of Thonet GmbH at the corporate head offices and production site Frankenberg/Eder (Germany). The descendants of Michael Thonet, the fifth and sixth generations, are actively involved with the company's business as partners and sales managers.*