

PRESS RELEASE

18th June 2019

USER REPORT: VERDEAGUA

Production of fresh, ready to eat salads in Uruguay

Recently, a processing line for the production of ready to eat salads was put into operation at Verdeagua, a salad producer based in Montevideo in Uruguay. The delicate products are delivered to supermarkets and gourmet restaurants, where a high quality standard is ensured. The machines of the processing line were supplied by KRONEN after the Verdeagua team visited a KRONEN customer in Germany to get an impression of how to implement a professional salad processing line.

Due to the expansion of the product portfolio since the founding in 2000, the company wanted to adapt its production to higher capacities. Back then, Verdeagua started with the cultivation of small quantities of salad in hydroponics. Today, the offered products include the particularly delicate Salanova® lettuce, baby leaf salad, spinach, rocket as well as watercress and basil. All products are packed as ready to eat vegetables and are delivered to customers in retail and the food service industry with high quality requirements. By ensuring this consistent quality level, Verdeagua now is the leading supplier of ready to eat hydroponic vegetables in Uruguay.

Focus on food safety, sustainability and quality of delicate products

The company specializes in the cultivation and processing of particularly sensitive products, as besides the fine leaves of spinach and basil also the tender Salanova® lettuce is processed. This type of lettuce is characterized by small leaves with thin, short midribs which do not need to be removed before consumption – resulting in less waste and more edible product. Sustainability is an important aspect at Verdeagua also regarding the processing, since the company values include protection of the environment and added value for employees. Furthermore, food safety plays a key role as the aim of the company is to provide safe and healthy ready to eat products. Verdeagua is aware of its responsibility towards consumers and pays attention to a hygienic processing of its products, during which products are cleaned thoroughly but damaged as little as possible. Therefore, the new processing line enables a gentle but thorough washing and dewatering of the different products.

Cooperation and specifications of the salad processing line

After the owners of Verdeagua visited the KRONEN booth at Fruit Logistica 2018 for information about solutions for salad processing, Heiko Schönbroich (Area Sales Manager Germany South at KRONEN) and Juan Lindmayer (Export Area Sales Manager Latin America & Caribbean for KRONEN) organized a visit for the Verdeagua team to the plant of KRONEN customer légumes Rapp in Germany. On site, the team of Verdeagua got an idea how to implement a professional salad processing line. Thereupon Verdeagua decided to install a KRONEN salad

processing line at their facility, which was supervised by Juan Lindmayer in Uruguay.

The new washing and dewatering line at Verdeagua consists of a trimming table, a conveyor belt, a washing machine as well as a salad spin-dryer of the latest generation. The washing machine, a GEWA 3800V ECO, enables a thorough and at the same time gentle washing of different products due to the adjustable water spiral and the changeable vibration screens with different hole sizes which allow for an adaptation to various product features. With the GEWA 3800V ECO up to e.g. 350 kg of baby leaf or 200 kg of basil can be processed per hour. Following the washing and a first dewatering by the vibration screen, the salad and vegetable spin-dryer KS-100 PLUS dewateres the products gently and diligently by automatically changing the spinning direction during a spin cycle. Also with the KS-100 PLUS, spin cycles can be adapted to different products, since individual settings for each product can be stored in the programmable memory locations. The processing capacity of the salad spin-dryer is up to e.g. 190 kg of baby leaf or 130 kg of rocket per hour. The processing line at Verdeagua processes 100 kg product per hour.

“We are pleased to have these machines in use in Uruguay for the first time. This will allow us to open the market and serve more customers in the future.” said Sebastián Figuerón, technical manager at Verdeagua during the barbecue on occasion of the commissioning of the processing line.

About KRONEN GmbH

KRONEN is a family-owned, globally operating producer and supplier of stand-alone and special machines as well as of high-tech processing lines for the Fresh-cut industry. The product range of KRONEN and its partners covers fruit, vegetable and salad processing solutions for preparing, cutting, washing, de-watering, peeling, disinfecting and packaging.

In addition, KRONEN offers technical solutions for sectors such as meat and fish, bakery products, convenience and ready meals, dried and frozen products as well as pet food.

Today, the company based in Kehl at the Rhine in Germany has over 100 employees, representations in more than 80 countries worldwide and delivers its products in over 100 countries around the globe.

With more than 40 years of experience in food technology, KRONEN considers it a major commitment to keep traditional values such as quality awareness, and focuses on a sustainable, holistic approach for the hygienic and safe production of healthy food. KRONEN aims at being a think tank, creating innovative solutions in line with the customers' needs and for their benefits. In close cooperation with industry and research, it ensures a high consulting and planning expertise.

Further information: www.kronen.eu

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Pictures by KRONEN GmbH / Verdeagua:

Verdeagua salad processing:



Salad processing at the KRONEN trimming table at Verdeagua in Uruguay



KRONEN conveyor belt in the salad processing line at Verdeaguagua

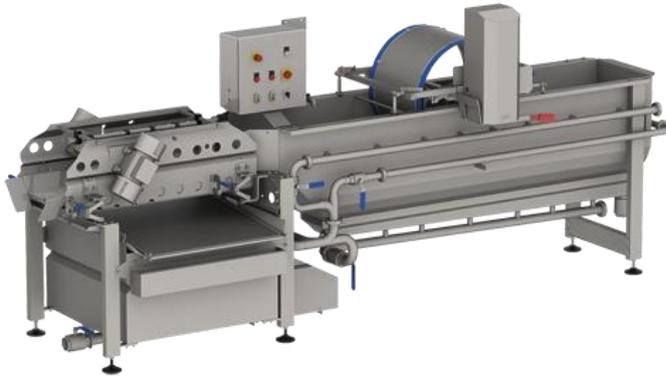


KRONEN basket carousel used for salad processing at Verdeagua



Salad cultivation at Verdeagua in Montevideo

KRONEN salad processing machines at Verdeagua:



KRONEN washing machine GEWA 3800 V ECO with vibration outfeed



KRONEN salad spin-dryer
KS-100 PLUS



KRONEN trimming table



KRONEN conveyor belt