Brand Guidelines



Introduction

Welcome to the Molten brand guidelines. In this document you'll find everything from tone of voice principles to design guidance, to help you use the Molten brand to create inspiring communications. There's also the brand strategy, which gives us direction and influences how we wish to be perceived.

2

Contents

- **1.0** Strategy
- 2.0 Tone of Voice
- **3.0** Logo
- 4.0 Typography
- 5.0 Colour
- 6.0 Shapes
- 7.0 Photography
- 8.0 Design Examples
- 9.0 Contact





Brand strategy is the thoughtful and intentional guidance of people's perceptions. It gives us a clear framework for decision-making, and guides behaviour, as well as informing the way the Molten brand looks and feels, via design and tone of voice.



The elements that make up our strategy influence our brand in different ways.

Vision

The reason why Molten exists; the overarching North Star guiding the business forward.

Goal

The core near term objective we want to achieve, and the reason why we need a high-performing brand.

Positioning

Captures what we do that's special and of interest and value to each of our audiences.

Personality

The characteristics that define Molten – the way we look, feel and act.

Values

Behaviours we all judge to be important, and which influence the way we interact with each other and our partners.

5

The investment platform for the visionaries who invent the Future.

This is the reason why we exist. It's big, it's bold and it encapsulates Molten's ambition as a VC firm.

It's reflective of the calibre of companies we want to invest in, the type of people we work with and hire, and the decisions we make as a business. As a oneline descriptor it sets us apart from others in our field.



To be recognised within the next few years as one of the largest, best performing and most respected venture growth houses in Europe.

The core objective we want to achieve in the next few years, and the reason why we need a high-performing brand. It captures our business ambitions, links the business strategy to the brand strategy, and sets out a clear target to be achieved.

It gives us something to aim for, so everyone associated with Molten is on the same page about where the business is going.



Make more possible

It captures who we are, how we're special and why that's of interest and value. It's a sentiment that's felt implicitly and explicitly in our visual and verbal identity, as well as our name.

It inspires our branded communications, from marketing and social initiatives, to the contents of our website and blog posts. As well as encapsulating a positive, can-do spirit of growth and potential that's apparent in everything we do.



Impact over style You are in charge Leave room for crazy We go further together

These are the behaviours we judge to be important, which we look for and celebrate in ourselves and each other. They help codify our culture, and inform the decisions we make.





Businesslike and bold

The characteristics that define Molten – the way we look, feel and act. It sets an intention for our visual and verbal brand. Businesslike and Bold represents the tension of opposites that drives the company – analytical and thoughtful when developing an investment thesis, but bold when chasing deals; trustworthy and reliable as a public markets company, but brave enough to make the investments that make venture capital such an exciting asset class.



Vision

The investment platform for the visionaries who invent the Future.

Goal

To be recognised as a top three venture growth house in Europe, best performing and well respected, investing in technology.

Positioning

Make more possible

1.7

Values

- 1. Impact over style
- 2. You are in charge
- 3. Leave room for crazy
- 4. We go further together

Personality

Businesslike and bold



Everything we do is about change. Venture capital gives companies the fuel they need to realise their ambitions – to transform and expand and grow.

1.8

To bring this idea to life, our brand concept takes inspiration from the natural process of State Change, by which matter is transformed via the injection of energy – the first transformation is from solid to liquid (molten) form, then into gas and then plasma. Each new state is enabled by the injection of more energy. It's a visible, tangible representation of the power of a good VC to create change.

12

^{2.0} Tone of Voice

Molten

Brand Guidelines

Our tone of voice is the way we sound when we say things. It conveys our personality, and allows us to communicate in a way that feels credible, consistent and reflective of the people who make up Molten. There are four principles that inspire our tone of voice. Please bear them in mind any time you sit down to write anything on behalf of Molten.



1. Refreshing

With our new approach to the world of investments, we're not your classic VC firm. Unafraid to do things differently, we voice our opinions and perspectives in a way that's energising and imaginative. We're always on the lookout for moments to add delight.

Do's and Don'ts

Do bring an interesting angle to the world of VCs.	Don't feel the on absolutely
Do take pride in communicating what makes us special.	Don't compa
Do give your writing a sleeves-rolled-up, can-do attitude that reflects 'make more possible.'	Don't rely on vocabulary o

he need to have thoughts and opinions ely everything.

pare us to the competition.

on the overused tropes and clichéd of the VC space.



So, you've got ambitions? Great. We have ambitions for you too.

A bit crazy? Us too. You can't fix the problems of tomorrow with the conventions of today.

Turn your brightness into a greater kind of brilliance.

Make more possible.

What makes these examples refreshing?

Molten's refreshing side is woven into these lines in various ways; openly asking our audience genuine questions. Gently challenging them to join us in this new way of doing things. Encouraging openmindedness in an upbeat, can-do manner. There's none of the usual VC tropes at play, in fact the tone gives the feeling that Molten is a company cut from a different cloth.



2. No nonsense

Our world is a fast moving one so we get straight to the point. Without forgetting our human side, we focus on the important details, keeping it pithy and straight-talking.

Do's and Don'ts

Do write in short, punchy sentences.	Don't mistak
Do remove any unnecessary fluff,	Don't sacrific
to keep writing well-edited.	
Do communicate that we know our stuff.	Don't assum

ke brevity for aggression.

ice our sense of personality.

Don't assume that every reader will know and understand all terminology.



The old venture capital model wasn't working for us. So we reinvented it.

We back leaders that make more possible.

They're inventors, they're visionaries, and they're driven.

Our energy gives them the capital and the networks to make them global leaders.

What makes these examples no nonsense?

There's an economic use of words at play in each example. None of these headlines says more (or less) than it has to in order to get across that expertise. Yet each one still uses relatable, human language to make its point.

3. Magnetic

At our core is an ambitious entrepreneurial spirit. We're driven and enterprising, but not ruthless, so we keep it spirited, bold and captivating. We invite people to share in our passion, making sure our writing is charismatic and compelling.

Do's and Don'ts

Do bring people on the journey with us and forge meaningful connections.

Do hold a consistent line on all things Molten: who we are, what we do, why that matters.

Do use evocative and rallying language peppered with interesting anecdotes and rhetorical devices that draw the reader in. **Don't** try to grab people's attention through needlessly provocative language.

Don't become impersonal. Remember to celebrate the talented individuals behind our business, and those we invest in.

Don't become pretentious or ponderous: keep your reader, and their needs, in mind.

Excited by new ways of thinking? Us too. Many of our partners are ex-entrepreneurs themselves. Bringing with them the courage and consideration To invest in passionate founders with a pioneering spirit. We're forging our own way forward. Join us.

What makes these examples magnetic?

By speaking of things like the balance between courage and consideration, the roadmap to success and pioneering spirit we give our audience something real and thoughtprovoking to engage with. There's a certain optimism here, and an open invitation for our audience to get involved.

19

4. Composed

When you're armed with some big ambitions and intrepid ideas, it can be hard to stay on planet earth. That's why we make sure we stay genuine and humble, writing in a way that's honest and natural.

Do's and Don'ts

Do make sure everything feels down-to-earth Don't undersell our achievements. and approachable.

Do write in simple, straightforward language.

Do celebrate the journeys and achievements of the businesses we invest in; past, present and future.

Don't dumb things down or gloss over the details, if they're needed.

Don't veer into hyperbole, or make unsubstantiated claims.



Cool, calm, considered.

We make just a handful of new investments each year.

Flexible, forward-thinking funding.

Looking for companies who exceed expectations - so we can do the same.

What makes these examples composed?

In these examples we keep our TOV grounded by being up front about how genuinely grateful we are for those we do business with, choosing words and phrases that are easy to understand and highlighting our benefits/differentiators without going over the top.





The Molten logo reflects the businesslike and bold principle visually, it is sincere in its form and can be used across everything with ease. In this section you will learn a bit about how to best use our logo.



22

Logo → Wordmarque 3.1

This is our logo. It is a strong, clean logo. The ways in which our logo can be used are highlighted in our design examples section later in this document.

Molten

23

Molten

Our logo in its three colours can be used across all applications.

Molten Molten

24



Molten Ventures Plc

This is our extended logo which features our legal trading name. The ways in which our logos can be used are highlighted in our design examples section later in this document.

25

Make More Possible

This is the version of our logo that is locked up with our strapline 'Make More Possible'.

26

3.3.1 Logo \rightarrow Clearance space



Our clear space ensures that our logos are legible when used alongside other design elements. The clear space is defined by the proportions of M in Molten.

27

3.3.2 Logo \rightarrow Clearance space

M Molten Ventures Plc

We apply the same approach as shown previously for the extended logo.

28



And we also apply the same approach to the version of our logo with the strapline.

Make More Possible

29

3.4 Logo \rightarrow Social & minimum size



We have defined how we build our social profile image and established minimum sizes to ensure that our logos remain legible across all print and digital touchpoints. With our minimum size, we recommend not going below but there are exceptions e.g. favicon and small scale social profile images.





Minimum size: 50px/15mm in width

Favicon size: 32x32px



3.5 Logo \rightarrow Placement & sizing guide



9:16

We have defined a soft guidance on how we scale and place our logo across any dimensions, the logo should be between 10%-20% of the composition and sit in any of the four corners. Please keep in mind that exceptions are allowed when reasonable, for example; the cover of this guideline where we've made our logo the focus and hero.



A4





9:16

We can also apply the same placement, sizing and positioning rules to the version of our logo that is locked up with our strapline 'Make More Possible'.



A4



4.0

Typography

Molten

Brand Guidelines

Our typography uses a clean, friendly, effortless type pairing. It's easy to use and gives us weight when we want to make an impact, with finer options for when we have a lot of information to convey.



Recife Display, our headline typeface. Weights used: Regular

Success requires transformation. Transformation requires movement. Movement requires energy.

Niveau Grotesk, our body typeface. Weights used: Light, Regular, Medium & Bold

Success in venture capital is our ability to help companies transform, enabling them to deliver their greatest potential. As a company scales, from seed through to early stage, growth stage and beyond, it must transform itself again and again.



Headline Leading: 110-120% Kerning: Metric Tracking: 0 to 10

4.2

Make more possible. Make way for Better. A global

community.

Body Leading: 120-140% Kerning: Metric Tracking: -10 to 0 The potential to transform is inherent in every company, it requires an injection of new energy. The role of venture capital is to inject new energy, helping companies transform and achieve their potential. The 'energy' we bring comes in many forms – capital of course, but also knowledge, experience, and relationships.

Transformation is part of our company; we transformed venture capital by going public.

35

Palatino, our replacement headline typeface. Weights used: Regular

Success requires transformation. Transformation requires movement. Movement requires energy.

When we cannot access or use our brand typefaces, for example; Powerpoint, Word or Outlook, we can use typefaces from Microsoft's native font library for ease of access. Please use the replacements below for consistency.

Quire Sans, our replacement body typeface. Weights used: Light, Regular, Medium & Bold

Success in venture capital is our ability to help companies transform, enabling them to deliver their greatest potential. As a company scales, from seed through to early stage, growth stage and beyond, it must transform itself again and again.


5.0

Colour

Molte<u>n</u>

Molten's visual brand comes to life through the way we use colour—it elevates us from the rest. Taking cues from energy, state change and its transitions, we have an electric palette that can be used boldly or neutrally.



5.1 $Colour \rightarrow Palette$



Molten Blue R: 060 G: 035 B: 230 #3D24E6 PMS: 2736 C: 100 M: 080 Y: 000 K: 000

Molten Red R: 255 G: 128 B: 126 #FF807D PMS: 177 C: 000 M: 065 Y: 040 K: 000

Molten Sky R: 214 G: 233 B: 255 #D6E8FF PMS: 2707 C: 015 M: 005 Y: 000 K: 000

Our palette consists of six colours, black and white which allows for numerous colour combinations and bring breadth of visibility to our brand. You can see how we've used our colours throughout this guideline and in the design examples section later in this guideline.

Molten Green R: 000 G: 229 B: 110 #00E56E PMS: 902 C: 070 M: 000 Y: 080 K: 000

Molten Yellow R: 255 G: 255 B: 064 #FFFF40 PMS: 903 C: 000 M: 000 Y: 075 K: 000

Molten Grey R: 206 G: 206 B: 206 #CECECE PMS: Cool Grey 4 C: 000 M: 000 Y: 000 K: 020



5.1 Colour \rightarrow Tints

Molten Grey 10% **Molten Grey** 30% **Molten Grey** 50%

We can use tints of our Molten Grey to help bring range and functionality to our digital applications. These should only be used in the percentages shown below on this page.



39

Logo colour options

Molten Molten Molten

Type colour options

Type should be predominately set in **Black** or White, and sometimes in blue.

To keep things simple and ensure our logo and typography are consistently legible and easy to apply, we recommend following the below guidance.





With our shapes and transitions we use only the colourful part of our core palette to ensure that we represent the idea of state change in a consistently bold manner.

5.4 Colour \rightarrow Combinations & usage





Brand Guidelines

To keep things simple and ensure our state change shapes are consistently legible and easy to apply, we recommend following the below colour combination guidance which follows the foreground and background format.



5.1.1

Our brand in print

Molten

Brand Guidelines

The Molten colours work differently in printed brand applications (using Pantone or CMYK), than they do on-screen.

Follow the guidelines in this chapter if you're setting up artwork for something that will be produced physically, like a flyer or brochure.



5.1.2 Our brand in print \rightarrow Pantone and CMYK matches



Wherever possible, in print, the Pantone inks should be used. CMYK should only ever be treated as a backup in circumstances where Pantone matching is not available. Please bear in mind that all CMYK printers reproduce colours differently, so we recommend doing a test print if possible, to assess how successfully the colours are replicated.

and Yellow. You will need to specify this to the printer. If these are not available please use the CMYK match.



Our brand in print \rightarrow A note about Molten Grey 5.1.3





Wherever Molten Grey is used as a background it should always be set to a 70% tint of PMS Cool Grey 4 or CMYK 0/0/0/20. This ensures all our other colours have the correct vibrancy against the background colour.





Just like our digital brand, the Molten print identity has specific ways in which the colours can be layered to ensure they always appear bright and engaging. We recommend following the below colour combination guidance which follows the foreground and background format. Molten Grey, Molten Blue and Molten Red should always be used as the primary background colours in print applications.

Molten Grey works well with shapes printed in:

- Molten Green
- Molten Blue -
- Molten Red -
- Molten Yellow ----

Molten Blue works well with shapes printed in:

- Molten Sky -
- Molten Green ----
- Molten Yellow

Molten Red works well with shapes printed in:

- Molten Blue _
- Molten Sky -
- Molten Yellow ----





For print artwork we recommend setting up the shapes in Illustrator and adding additional text in InDesign later. This gives you more control over how the shapes and their accompanying glows and gradients appear.

Before you begin, open Illustrator and enter the Preferences Menu > select General > tick "Scale Strokes and Effects".

You can then download the shape template example:

- Pantone Colours \rightarrow
- CMYK →

And load the Graphic Styles for the shapes:

- Pantone Colours \rightarrow
- CMYK →

Save a version of the template and use the sample shapes to create your design, following the guidelines set out earlier in this brand book. There is no variation between print and digital application here.

Before importing to InDesign or exporting as PDF, please ensure that no shapes or colours are accidentally set to overprint.



To set up a reflective glow on any shape, follow the below instructions:

- In Illustrator select the shape you wish to contain the transfer glow.
- Copy the shape and then paste it in place, and move it into a different layer titled 'Gradient Glow'. Then lock all other layers. It's important that the placement is really precise, otherwise your glow will be misaligned.
- Select the shape that will contain your gradient, and delete all effects applied to it within the Appearance Panel (everything on page 46). Then set the fill colour to empty. You should now have an "invisible" shape sitting directly on top of the original shape.
- Navigate to the Gradient panel (Window \rightarrow Gradients) and apply a Linear Gradient to your shape in the panel that opens.
- Where the colour white appears in the slider, set the opacity to 0%.
- Where the colour black appears in the slider, click on the black circular swatch and change this to the colour of the shape nearby. This is your transfer glow.
- Choose the same colour swatch type (PMS or CMYK) as the rest of the document.
- Select the gradient button in the left hand toolbar, and hold down shift. You can then manipulate the direction and strength of the glow to get it to appear as you require.
- The glow should not be too thick (about the same thickness as the Inner Glow as set out on the previous page).
- Double check the shape is not set to overprint.

The reflective glows are an important part of the Molten shapes, as you'll have seen earlier in the brand book. To replicate these successfully in print, there are a few rules to be followed.



Check that in your print artwork Molten Grey is set to 70% tint of PMS Cool Grey 4 (or 20% K) wherever it appears.

Check that no element of the artwork is set to overprint.

Check that your transfer glows sit on top of the shapes, and are reflecting the correct colours of their origin shape.

Use Adobe Acrobat Pro's print production feature to check all colours are specified as either PMS or CMYK (check gradients for the transfer glows carefully, as they don't pick up global swatches like 'normal' colours).

Check all uses of black are set to 100% K, and not a conversion of RGB.

Spell check!

Before you send something to print, run through this checklist to ensure the finished product will reproduce correctly.



Our brand in print \rightarrow Quick links

Illustrator shape templates for use in print assets

- Pantone Colours \rightarrow
- CMYK \rightarrow

Pre-defined Illustrator 'Graphic Styles' for shapes

- Pantone Colours \rightarrow
- CMYK \rightarrow

.ase Colour Palette files (will only work if you have Illustrator installed)

- Pantone Colours \rightarrow
- CMYK \rightarrow

Business Card template \rightarrow

Letterhead Artwork \rightarrow

Compliment Slip Artwork →

5.1.8



6.0

Shapes & Layouts

Molten

Brand Guidelines

Our shapes and layouts create a powerful visual asset that reflect the core idea of Molten, the state changes from solid to liquid to gas to plasma. This system represents the following idea: Success requires transformation. Transformation requires movement. Movement requires energy.



6.1 Shapes & Layouts \rightarrow Our shapes



Our shapes represent the state change from solid to liquid to gas to plasma in an abstract way. These shapes along with our logo, typography and colour makes our visual identity what it is.



52



- 1. Shapes must always appear in this order
- 2. Individual states can increase or decrease in size
- **3.** Individual states can rotate
- **4.** Our aligned states can rotate, retaining their clear composition, but they must sit on a straight-axis. The axis of the shapes cannot be a curve.



53



5%

Mode:	Normal ~
Opacity:	↓ 100%
Blur:	
	🔾 Center 🔘 Edge

5%



Our shapes below are 400px in height (Z) which means we should make the inner glow sized between 20px and 40px (Y) which is 5% and 10% respectively of the overall size (height in these examples).

Below is an illustration of how the effect filters should be set up in Adobe Illustrator and InDesign.



Illustrator Inner Glow

10%

Mode:	Normal ~
Opacity:	↓ 100%
Blur:	↓ 40px
	Center 🖲 Edge

InDesign Inner Glow

10%

Blending -				
Mode:	Normal	~	Opacity:	100% >
Options —				
Technique:	Normal	\checkmark		
Source	Edge	\checkmark		
Size:			Noise:	0% >
Choke:	40%	>		

Shapes & Layouts \rightarrow Transfer glows

Transfer glows

When shapes touch, their colours glow. There are no rules on which direction the glow moves from one shape to another, so long as there is a glow where two shapes connect. You may use the glow to highlight one shape more than another.

Adding glow, the colour should be strongest at the edge and replace, not merge with the colour on the original shape.





Shapes & Layouts \rightarrow Treatments

Oversized

Molten

6.5

Below outlines three ways of using our shapes and layouts;

- **1. Oversized** Shapes are scaled beyond its canvas and are cropped
- 2. Undersized Shapes fall within its canvas and are not cropped
- **3. Glow** An abstraction transfer state, often used in photographic treatments



56

6.6 Shapes & Layouts → Crops



Below is a collection of examples of how we leverage the oversized treatment by creating interesting crops of our shapes, often on an angle to imply dynamism and motion, representing constant transformation.

57



Photography

Molten

Our photography allows us to introduce humanity and warmth in an immediate and engaging way. In this section we share art direction principles and how our photography is used in our brand.



Photography \rightarrow Art Direction

- Mainly portrait headshots and upper-body shots
- Off-white, neutral tone colour background
- Colour gel lighting, soft and indirect
- Occasional direct gaze
- Aspirational and empowering
- Not overly posed or smiley

7.1

y shots d

59

Photography \rightarrow Moodboard



7.2

We have a collection of found photography that cover all aspects of photography we may use in our brand, from solo portraits to team shots, when art directing or commissioning photography, please refer to our moodboards shown here.



Photography \rightarrow Moodboard



7.2

We also have a moodboard of photography for use when we need to show people in a more natural environment, rather than a more static portrait setting. This is particularly useful when showing our investors and entrepreneurs portfolios.



7.3 Photography → Treatments

Full bleed glow



Below showcases two treatments that we can occasionally apply to our photography to give them emphasis and a recognisably Molten touch.

Cropped with glow



62

8.0

Design Examples

Molten

Brand Guidelines

This section show how our identity elements, from visual to verbal, come to life across a range of touchpoints. Ultimately creating a bold, distinctive, powerful brand.



63

Make more possible

moltenventures.com



Molten

Make way for better



Portfolio People Insights Investor Relations Find us

Make more possible

Curabitur tempus eros nec vestibulum pharetra. Morbi consectetur in felis dictum sodales. Nunc non leo sit amet purus venenatis lobortis.

LEARN ABOUT OUR REBRAND



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$\leftrightarrow \rightarrow C$ $$ molten.com/insight	S	
FOCUS AREA		CATEGORY
Select a focus	area	Select a category

Molten joins \$120m Series D round for portfolio company, Aircall

We invest in tech companies that see new ways for the world to work. Which explains why our portfolio is full of inventors and visionaries.

READ MORE









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	Molten @Moltenventure Partner @vinothj joins @an "I believe in founder empov always have a heart to hear transaction, it is a relations theeuropeanvc.com



o help companies transform, enabling them

ton, and 2 others you follow

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market move on @LSEplc & @euronext! We upport Europe's best entrepreneurs with nt to help them achieve their incredible



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Jul 23

as_mholm & @dave_bcs of The European VC. nent in every new investment I go into. I will ith the founder, because this is not a

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What's happening

UK national news - Last night Police say six people, including a police young child, have died in the shooting in Plymouth



Trending with Plymouth, Afghanistan S POPSUGAR O · Last night

The Cast of How I Met Your Father Is What Barney Stinson Would Call "Legendary"

🛞 Input 🚭 - Last night A look at Nike's new high-tech and interactive 'Rise' store

Trending in United Kingdom Alison

19.4K Tweets

Politics - Trending **Rory Stewart** 2,132 Tweets

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1



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MANAGING OFFICER





Molten

0112 0132

Excited by new ways of thinking? Us too.

moltenventures.com











alues ct over style re in charge oom for crazy urther together

Recapping the Process

Immersion (Aug-Sept)

<u>What</u>

Interviews and surveys conducted across the company, portfolio companies, industry contacts and nonportfolio companies

<u>Output</u>

Gain an understanding of ourselves, providing input to brand strategy

Molten

Brand Strategy (Oct-Dec)

What

A framework which captures who we are and what we offer to our stakeholders that is valuable and differentiated

<u>Output</u>

Develop a single common understanding of our Vision, Goal, Positioning, Personality and Values which can be used as the input for all creative development that follows

Naming Development (Jan–Mar)

What A new name which will help capture the essence of "us". Inspired by our Positioning "Make More Possible"

<u>Output</u>

Name must be unique, simple, memorable, trademarkable

Creative Development (Apr-Jul)

<u>What</u>

Branding look and feel which will set the creative look for all our brand assets from website to business cards

<u>Output</u>

A visual look and feel for our brand and branding, inspired by our Personality (Businesslike and Bold*)







9.0

Contact

If you have any questions about our brand, please contact:

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