ALTRIA GROUP, INC. Form 424B2 November 10, 2014 Table of Contents

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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities nor do they seek an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated November 10, 2014

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated October 30, 2014

Altria Group, Inc.

\$ % Notes due 20

Guaranteed by

Philip Morris USA Inc.

The notes due 20 will mature on , 20 . Interest on the notes is payable semiannually on and of each year, beginning , 2015. We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at our option at any time on or after , 20 at the redemption price described under Description of Notes Optional Redemption. We may also redeem the notes prior to maturity if specified events occur involving United States federal income taxation. See Description of Notes Redemption for Tax Reasons. If we experience a change of control triggering event with respect to the notes, we will be required to offer to repurchase the notes from holders at 101% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of repurchase. See Description of Notes Repurchase Upon Change of Control Triggering Event.

The notes will be senior unsecured obligations of Altria Group, Inc. and will rank equally with all of its other existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness. The notes will be guaranteed by our wholly-owned subsidiary, Philip Morris USA Inc. The guarantee will rank equally with all of Philip Morris USA Inc. s existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness and guarantees from time to time outstanding. The notes will be denominated in U.S. dollars and issued only in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See <u>Risk Factors</u> beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the attached prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

		Public Offering Price		Underwriting Discount		Proceeds to Us (before expenses)	
	Per Note	Total	Per Note	Total	Per Note	Total	
% Notes due 20	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	

The initial public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest. Interest on the notes will accrue from

, 2014.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, including its participants Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, against payment in New York, New York on or about , 2014.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Barclays

Deutsche Bank Securities

Morgan Stanley

Prospectus Supplement dated November , 2014

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We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with any information other than that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the attached prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. If the information varies between this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus, the information in this prospectus supplement supersedes the information in the attached prospectus. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. Neither the delivery of this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus or the attached prospectus, nor any sale made hereunder and thereunder, shall under any circumstances create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date of this prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus or the attached prospectus,

regardless of the time of delivery of such document or any sale of securities offered hereby or thereby, or that the information contained or incorporated by reference herein or therein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date of such information.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus and the offering or sale of the notes in some jurisdictions may be restricted by law. The notes are offered globally for sale in those jurisdictions in the United States, Europe, Asia and elsewhere where it is lawful to make such offers. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus come are required by us and the underwriters to inform themselves about, and to observe, any applicable restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by any person in any jurisdiction in which that offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make that offer or solicitation. See Offering Restrictions in this prospectus supplement.

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Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus have been prepared on the basis that any offer of notes in any Member State of the European Economic Area (the EEA) that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (2003/71/EC) (each, a Relevant Member State) will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that Relevant Member State, from the requirement to produce a prospectus for offers of notes. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make any offer in that Relevant Member State of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or any of the underwriters to produce a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive in relation to such offer. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized, nor do we or they authorize, the making of any offer of notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for us or the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

This prospectus supplement and attached prospectus are only being distributed to, and are only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive and that are also (1) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (2) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (each such person being referred to as a Relevant Person). This prospectus supplement and attached prospectus and their contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a Relevant Person should not act or rely on this prospectus supplement and/or attached prospectus or any of their contents.

This prospectus supplement and attached prospectus have not been approved for the purposes of section 21 of the UK Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) by a person authorized under FSMA. This prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus are being distributed and communicated to persons in the United Kingdom only in circumstances in which section 21(1) of FSMA does not apply.

The notes are not being offered or sold to any person in the United Kingdom except in circumstances which will not result in an offer of securities to the public in the United Kingdom within the meaning of Part VI of FSMA.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement contains the terms of this offering of notes. This prospectus supplement, or the information incorporated by reference, may add, update or change information in the attached prospectus. If information in this prospectus supplement, or the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, is inconsistent with the attached prospectus, this prospectus supplement, or the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, will apply and will supersede that information in the attached prospectus.

It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement, the attached prospectus and any related free writing prospectus in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to under Documents Incorporated by Reference in this prospectus supplement and under Where You Can Find More Information in the attached prospectus.

Trademarks and servicemarks in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus appear in italic type and are the property of Altria or our subsidiaries or are used with permission.

References in this prospectus to Altria, the company, we, us and our refer to Altria Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries, unless otherwise specific unless otherwise required. References to PM USA refer to Philip Morris USA Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Altria.

References in this prospectus supplement to \$, dollars and U.S. dollars are to United States dollars, and all financial data included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement have been presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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FORWARD-LOOKING AND CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

Some of the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus contains forward-looking statements. You can identify these forward-looking statements by use of words such as strategy, expects, continues, plans, anticipates, believes, will, estimates, intends, projects, goals, objectives, guidance, targets, forecasts and other words of sir can also identify them by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts.

We cannot guarantee that any forward-looking statement will be realized, although we believe we have been prudent in our plans and assumptions. Achievement of future results is subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that may prove to be inaccurate. Should known or unknown risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove inaccurate, actual results could vary materially from those anticipated, estimated or projected. You should bear this in mind as you consider forward-looking statements and whether to invest in or remain invested in the notes. In connection with the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, we are identifying important factors in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference that, individually or in the aggregate, could cause actual results and outcomes to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements made by us; any such statement is qualified by reference to these cautionary statements. We elaborate on these and other risks we face in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference. You should understand that it is not possible to predict or identify all risk factors. Consequently, you should not consider risks discussed in the prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference to be a complete discussion of all potential risks or uncertainties. We do not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that we may make from time to time except as required by applicable law.

SUMMARY

The Company

We are a Virginia holding company incorporated in 1985. Our wholly-owned subsidiaries include PM USA, which is engaged in the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and certain smokeless tobacco products in the United States; John Middleton Co., which is engaged in the manufacture and sale of machine-made large cigars and pipe tobacco, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PM USA; and UST LLC, which through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company LLC and Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Ltd., or Ste. Michelle, is engaged in the manufacture and sale of smokeless tobacco products and wine. Our other operating companies include Nu Mark LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary, which is engaged in the manufacture and sale of innovative tobacco products, and Philip Morris Capital Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary, which maintains a portfolio of leveraged and direct finance leases. Additionally, our other wholly-owned subsidiaries include Altria Group Distribution Company, which provides sales, distribution and consumer engagement services to our operating subsidiaries, and Altria Client Services Inc., which provides various support services, such as legal, regulatory, finance, human resources and external affairs, to us and certain of our subsidiaries. In addition, we held approximately 27% of the economic and voting interest of SABMiller plc, or SABMiller, at September 30, 2014.

The brand portfolios of our tobacco operating companies include Marlboro®, Black & Mild®, Copenhagen®, Skoal®, MarkTen and Green Smoke®. Ste. Michelle produces and markets premium wines sold under various labels, including Chateau Ste. Michelle®, Columbia Crest®, 14 Hands® and Stag s Leap Wine Cellars , and it imports and markets AntinoPi, Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte , Torre® and Villa Maria Estate products in the United States.

Our principal executive offices are located at 6601 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230, our telephone number is (804) 274-2200 and our website is www.altria.com. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not and shall not be deemed to be a part of this prospectus supplement.

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The Offering

The following summary contains basic information about the notes and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more detailed description of the notes and the subsidiary guarantee, please refer to the section entitled Description of Notes in this prospectus supplement and the sections entitled Description of Debt Securities and Description of Guarantees of Debt Securities in the attached prospectus.

Altria Group, Inc. **Issuer Securities Offered** principal amount of % notes due 20, maturing , 20 . **Interest Rate** The notes will bear interest from , 2014 at the rate of % per annum. **Interest Payment Dates** and of each year, beginning on , 2015. Ranking The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations. Accordingly, they will rank: equal in right of payment to all of our existing and future senior unsecured indebtedness: effectively subordinate to all of our future secured indebtedness, if any, to the extent of the value of the assets securing that indebtedness; effectively subordinate to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities of our non-guarantor subsidiaries, if any (other than indebtedness and liabilities owed to us); and senior in right of payment to all of our future subordinated indebtedness, if any. **Subsidiary Guarantee** The notes will be guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis by PM USA. The guarantee will equal in right of payment to all of PM USA s existing and future senior

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unsecured indebtedness and guarantees;

effectively subordinate to all of PM USA s future secured indebtedness, if any, to

the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and

senior in right of payment to all of PM USA s future subordinated indebtedness, if any.

Under certain circumstances, PM USA s guarantee of the notes will be released. See Risk Factors Risks Related to the Offering Under certain circumstances, PM USA s guarantee of the notes will be released.

Optional Redemption

Commencing , 20 (the date that is one month prior to the scheduled maturity date of the notes), we may redeem the notes, in

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whole or in part, at our option at any time, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date.

Optional Tax Redemption

We may redeem all, but not part, of the notes upon the occurrence of specified tax events described under Description of Notes Redemption for Tax Reasons.

of Control Triggering Event

Repurchase at the Option of Holders upon Change If a change of control triggering event (as defined in Description of Notes Repurchase Upon Change of Control Triggering Event) occurs, we will be required to make an offer to purchase the notes at a purchase price of 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of repurchase. See Description of Notes Repurchase Upon Change of Control Triggering Event.

Covenants

We will issue the notes under an indenture containing covenants that restrict our ability, with significant exceptions, to:

incur debt secured by liens; and

engage in sale and leaseback transactions.

Use of Proceeds

We will receive net proceeds (before expenses) from this offering of approximately . We intend to use the net proceeds from the issuance of the notes for general corporate purposes.

If we do not use the net proceeds immediately, we will temporarily invest them in short-term, interest-bearing investments.

No Listing

We do not intend to list the notes on any securities exchange or to include them in any automated quotation system. The notes will be new securities for which there is currently no public market. See Risk Factors Risks Related to the Offering There is no public market for the notes, which could limit their market price or your ability to sell them.

Clearance and Settlement

The notes will be cleared through The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, including its participants Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, or Clearstream, and Euroclear Bank

S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, or Euroclear.

Governing Law

State of New York.

Risk Factors

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 for a discussion of the factors you should consider carefully before deciding to invest in the notes.

Trustee

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas.

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RISK FACTORS

An investment in the notes involves risks, including risks inherent in our business. You should carefully consider the following factors as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement before deciding to invest in the notes, including the factors listed under Risk Factors in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2014, which Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Risks Related to the Offering

either:

Under certain circumstances, PM USA s guarantee of the notes will be released.

PM USA s guarantee of the notes will be released upon the earliest to occur of:

the date, if any, on which PM USA consolidates with or merges into us or any successor of us;

the date, if any, on which we or any successor consolidates with or merges into PM USA;

payment in full of the notes; and

the rating of our long-term senior unsecured debt by S&P of A or higher.

If PM USA is released from its guarantee of the notes, it will have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the notes or to provide us with funds for the payment of our obligations. In addition, as described under Description of Guarantees of Debt Securities Amendment in the attached prospectus, the guarantee may be amended with the approval of the holders of more than 50% in aggregate principal amount of the notes.

In the event of the release of PM USA s guarantee, our right, as the equity holder of PM USA, to receive any assets of such subsidiary upon its liquidation or reorganization, and therefore the right of the holders of the notes to participate in those assets, will be effectively subordinated to the claims of PM USA s creditors, including trade creditors.

Federal and state statutes allow courts, under specific circumstances, to void guarantees and require noteholders to return payments received from PM USA.

Under applicable provisions of federal bankruptcy law or comparable provisions of state fraudulent transfer law, PM USA s guarantee could be voided, or claims in respect of PM USA s guarantee could be subordinated to the debts of PM USA, if, among other things, PM USA, at the time it incurred the obligation evidenced by its guarantee:

received less than reasonably equivalent value or fair consideration therefor; and

was insolvent or rendered insolvent by reason of such occurrence;

was engaged in a business or transaction for which the assets of PM USA constituted unreasonably small capital; or

intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay such debts as they mature. In addition, under such circumstances, the payment of amounts by PM USA pursuant to its guarantee could be voided and required to be returned to PM USA, or to a fund for the benefit of PM USA, as the case may be.

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The measures of insolvency for purposes of the foregoing considerations will vary depending upon the law applied in any proceeding with respect to the foregoing. Generally, however, PM USA would be considered insolvent if:

the sum of its debts, including contingent liabilities, was greater than the saleable value of its assets, all at a fair valuation;

the present fair saleable value of its assets was less than the amount that would be required to pay its probable liability on its existing debts, including contingent liabilities, as they become absolute and mature; or

it could not pay its debts as they become due.

To the extent PM USA s guarantee is voided as a fraudulent conveyance or held unenforceable for any other reason, the holders of the notes would not have any claim against PM USA and would be creditors solely of us.

The notes and the guarantee will be effectively junior to secured indebtedness that we or PM USA may issue in the future.

The notes and the guarantee are unsecured. Holders of any secured debt that we or PM USA may issue in the future may foreclose on the assets securing such debt, reducing the cash flow from the foreclosed property available for payment of unsecured debt, including the notes. Holders of our or PM USA s secured debt also would have priority over unsecured creditors in the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation or similar proceeding. As a result, the notes will be effectively junior to any secured debt that we may issue in the future and the guarantee will be effectively junior to any secured debt that PM USA may issue in the future.

We may not be able to repurchase all of the notes upon a change of control repurchase event.

As described under Description of Notes Repurchase Upon Change of Control Triggering Event, we will be required to make an offer to purchase the notes upon the occurrence of a change of control triggering event. We may not have sufficient funds to repurchase the notes in cash at that time or have the ability to arrange necessary financing on acceptable terms. In addition, the terms of our other debt agreements or applicable law may limit our ability to repurchase the notes for cash.

There is no public market for the notes, which could limit their market price or your ability to sell them.

The notes are a new issue of securities for which there currently is no trading market. As a result, we cannot provide any assurances that a market will develop for the notes or that you will be able to sell your notes. If any of the notes are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price. Future trading prices of the notes will depend on many factors, including prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, general economic conditions and our financial condition, performance and prospects. Accordingly, you may be required to bear the financial risk of an investment in the notes for an indefinite period of time. We do not intend to apply for listing or quotation of the notes on any securities exchange or automated quotation system, respectively.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will receive net proceeds (before expenses) from this offering of approximately \$. We intend to use the net proceeds from the issuance of the notes for general corporate purposes.

If we do not use the net proceeds immediately, we will temporarily invest them in short-term, interest-bearing investments.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our historical ratios of earnings available for fixed charges to fixed charges for the periods indicated. Earnings available for fixed charges represent earnings from continuing operations before income taxes, including interest capitalized and distributed income of our less than 50% owned affiliates, but excluding fixed charges, amortization of capitalized interest and undistributed earnings of our less than 50% owned affiliates. Fixed charges represent interest expense, amortization of debt discount and expenses, and capitalized interest, plus that portion of rental expense estimated to be the equivalent of interest. This information should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(a)	9.3	6.8	5.8	5.2	5.7	4.6

(a) We include interest relating to uncertain tax positions in our provision for income taxes, therefore, such amounts are not included in fixed charges in the computation.

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SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The following tables present our selected historical financial data that have been derived from, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, our historical consolidated financial statements and related notes. You should read the following tables along with our historical consolidated financial statements and related notes, as well as the sections entitled Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, which we have incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. The financial data as of September 30, 2014 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 include all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, that we consider necessary for a fair presentation of our results of operations for those periods. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of full-year results.

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014 2013		Year Ended December 31, 2013 2012	
Statement of Farmings Date.		(in millions)		
Statement of Earnings Data: Net revenues	¢ 10 264	¢ 10 206	¢ 24 466	¢ 24 619
	\$ 18,264	\$ 18,386	\$ 24,466	\$ 24,618
Cost of sales	5,799	5,210	7,206	7,937
Excise taxes on products	4,932	5,127	6,803	7,118
Gross profit	7,533	8,049	10,457	9,563
Marketing, administration and research costs	1,821	1,738	2,340	2,301
Changes to Mondelez International, Inc. and Philip Morris International Inc. tax-related				
receivables/payables	5	25	22	(52)
Asset impairment and exit costs	(1)	1	11	61
Operating income	5,708	6,285	8,084	7,253
Interest and other debt expense, net	596	794	1,049	1,126
Loss on early extinguishment of debt			1,084	874
Earnings from equity investment in SABMiller	(753)	(738)	(991)	(1,224)
Earnings before income taxes	5,865	6,229	6,942	6,477
Provision for income taxes	2,031	2,182	2,407	2,294
Net earnings	3,834	4,047	4,535	4,183
Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests				(3)
Net earnings attributable to Altria Group, Inc.	\$ 3,834	\$ 4,047	\$ 4,535	\$ 4,180

As of December 31, As of September 30, 2014 2013 2012