

# AMORIM NEWS

YEAR 40 / ISSUE 2

## **The evolution of neutrality has a name: Xpür®**

Cork has been used as a closure for thousands of years. From amphorae to wine and sparkling wine bottles, we have the most renowned examples of authors and brands who have used this noble material. In the 17th century, Dom Pérignon chose cork stoppers to seal the bottles of his famous champagne, and it is said that the first bottle of Coca-Cola, produced between 1894 and 1899, was sealed with a cork stopper. Centuries later, innovation and the globalisation of new technologies such as Xpür®, which combat TCA and other sensory deviations, are increasingly precise. From Dom Pérignon's France to the vineyards of South Africa, one thing can be known for sure: the cork stopper is going global, with Amorim.



- 
- 3** Opinion  
*Christophe Fouquet*
- 4** Sustainable Development in review with the BCSD
- 5** Alqueva Solar Park wins European Sustainable Energy Award
- 6** Amorim Cork Flooring wins international design awards
- 7** Cork showcased in the Salone del Mobile with the Suber Design collection
- 8** We are ON! New Generations
- 10** Innovation on a global scale: Xpür® is conquering the world
- 12** Christophe Sauvaud: Marathon Man
- 14** «Maintaining the focus on cork production, which is the heart and soul of the project, the Herdade da Torre invests in diversification and operates on “several fronts”, in particular through investment in renewable energies.»  
*António Mascarenhas*
- 18** House made of wood, straw and cork wins Italy’s biggest sustainable architecture prize
- 20** Sea Change: a sustainable wave in the wine industry
- 21** Cork’s discreet materiality showcased in the Venice Biennale
- 23** Our People



## 21<sup>st</sup> century supercritical fluid technology drives international sales of Amorim Cork's Xpür® microgranulated stoppers

With an R&D process dating back to 2016 and a global launch in 2021, Xpür® is a major innovation in Amorim Cork's armoury for combatting TCA. The aim is not "simply" to ensure that releasable TCA content is equal to or lower than the detection limit of 0.3 ng\*, but to do so in a much more efficient manner than traditional supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> technology, that was developed in the 20th century. Xpür® uses only 25% of the energy and 10% of the CO<sub>2</sub> previously required, important advances that allow Xpür® stoppers to offer the best CO<sub>2</sub> balance of microgranulated cork stoppers at -393 g/e per stopper. An independent study conducted by the consultancy firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers established this impressive figure and also reveals that the Xpür® stopper has a carbon footprint of -3.542 g CO<sub>2</sub> per stopper when considering the cradle-to-gate approach and -2.086 g CO<sub>2</sub> per stopper when considering shipping to the UK, one of the most world's important wine import markets. But the demanding specifications set by the company went even further. Idealised for premium, fast-rotation wines, Amorim also stipulated that Xpür® stoppers must offer the highest percentage of cork of any other equivalent cork stopper. This has been achieved with a composition of 98% natural cork by volume that dispenses with unnecessary chemical impacts while maintaining a consistently low O<sub>2</sub> transfer rate. Faced with the long list of innovations implemented, wine producers from all over the world have responded with such widespread enthusiasm that it led to the immediate construction of a second Xpür® unit, which will come into operation in the second half of 2023. To capitalise on this success, Amorim Cork has launched an ambitious promotional campaign for Xpür® technology in 2023 - the company's largest ever global advertising campaign, covering the world's 12 main wine markets and

more than 30 leading wine publications, including, for the first time, advertising in some of the world's most prestigious wine magazines. Finally, to give more context to the innovation effort, it is important to remember that both the development and launch of Xpür® coincided with the R&D process that enabled the launch of Naturity® technology for natural cork stoppers. These two pioneering technologies, aimed at natural cork and microgranulated cork stoppers, are the world's most ecological, innovative and efficient anti-TCA technologies.

In a world where cork is increasingly an example of the necessary balance between the 3 Ps of sustainability for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: people, planet and partnerships.

\* Releasable TCA content equal to or less than the detection limit of 0.3 ng/l; analysis conducted according to an in-house method based on the ISO 20752 standard.

**YEAR 40**  
ISSUE 2  
OCTOBER 2023

**Head Office**  
Rua Comendador Américo  
Ferreira Amorim, n.º 380  
4536-902 Mozelos VFR  
Portugal

**Property of**  
Corticeira Amorim

**Coordination**  
Carlos Bessa

**Editorial**  
Editorialista  
Inês Pimenta

**Opinion**  
Christophe Fouquet

**Publisher**  
Corticeira Amorim

**Graphic design**  
Studio Eduardo Aires  
Studio Dobra (pagination)

**English translation**  
Sombra Chinesa

**German, Spanish,  
French Translation**  
Expressão

**Printing and Binding**  
Lidergraf – Artes Gráficas,  
S.A.

**Distribution**  
Iberomail Correio Interna-  
cional, Lda

**Packaging**  
Porenvel Distribuição,  
Comércio e Serviços, S.A.

**Periodicity**  
Quarterly

**Print run**  
22.000 copies

**Legal Deposit**  
386410/15



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# Sustainable Development in review with the BCSD



Last June, Corticeira Amorim hosted the annual meeting of the Board of Directors and other staff of the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) Portugal, held at the group's renovated museum centre - the Heritage House. Corticeira Amorim is committed to a sustainable future, in alignment with BCSD Portugal's path towards sustainability, promoting positive action through responsible business practices and in line with ESG objectives. The visit reinforced the two organisations' shared values, and strengthened Corticeira Amorim's determination to continue collaborating and working together for a better tomorrow. During the meeting, Cristina Rios de Amorim, Corticeira Amorim's Sustainability Director and Deputy Chair of the Board of BCSD Portugal, emphasised the importance of the work conducted by

BCSD, which offers a leading reference in promoting sustainability in Portugal. Cristina Amorim stated that BCSD is "an agile, dynamic and extremely relevant partner in terms of corporate sustainability, inspiring its members on this journey, while contributing to the construction of robust public policies and raising awareness in Portuguese society". António Pires de Lima, the Chairman of BCSD, and João Menezes, the Secretary General, reinforced the message presented at the annual conference, held on the previous day at the Alfândega do Porto. Under the motto "Business with purpose" and based on the international targets agreed for 2020-30, the participants discussed commitments and challenges for the current decade, especially good business practices, while highlighting good examples within the corporate world.

BCSD Portugal is part of the WBCSD global network, the largest international business organisation promoting sustainable development.

# Alqueva Solar Park wins European Sustainable Energy Award

EDP's pioneering project, which resulted from a partnership with Amorim Cork Composites and the Spanish manufacturer, Isigener, was distinguished by the European Commission in the Innovation category of the "European Sustainable Energy Awards 2023". In operation since July 2022, it is Europe's largest floating solar park on a reservoir, that incorporates almost 12,000 photovoltaic panels and has the capacity to supply more than 30% of the population in this part of the Alentejo region.

Amorim Cork Composites was a key partner in the design of the floats supporting each of the panels. The company has developed an innovative material, based on a new cork composite, which has not only delivered a 15%

reduction in the platform's weight but also helped achieve a 30% reduction in the carbon footprint of production of the floats. This partnership is the result of the two companies' shared commitment to sustainability and a common goal to combat climate change through decarbonisation and energy transition. In an interview for a previous edition of Amorim News, Miguel Patena, EDP's Director of Green Hydrogen Engineering, explained that cork was chosen for the project as "a natural option (...) reinforced by the very fact that it is located in the Alentejo region, where cork oak trees and cork are a predominant raw material" and he also anticipated an increasingly decisive role for this material in the energy sector. "Cork has excellent insulating properties,

making it ideal for application in the sector, for example in batteries, as Amorim Cork Composites has already demonstrated and also for insulation of containerised substations in wind and solar farms and, why not, as a construction material for such facilities." The Alqueva solar farm project was one of three finalists selected for the European Sustainable Energy Awards 2023, after a global vote in June.



# Amorim Cork Flooring wins international Design awards

Two collections from Amorim Cork Flooring are among the winning projects in the Global Prize Designs 2023, an annual award that honours the best furniture, lighting and textile products. Two Amorim Wise capsule collections - Burel and Origem - were awarded top prize in the Furniture category (sub-category: Floor and Wallcoverings Unit). Both collections were developed in partnership with Vicara Design Studio, coordinated by the Product Designer, Ana Teixeira.

Burel, a collection of wall coverings, is the result of a collaborative circular production system that combines two of Portugal's most traditional materials: cork and wool. In turn, Origem is a collection of floor coverings inspired by the colours of the cork oak forest after the harvest, creating a unique palette. Both collections combine the best of contemporary and sustainable design with centuries-old Portuguese manufacturing traditions, while demonstrating the versatility of cork as an excellent raw material for this industry. The Global Design Awards for Modern Furniture + Lighting were originally conceived by the Museum of Modern Art in New York

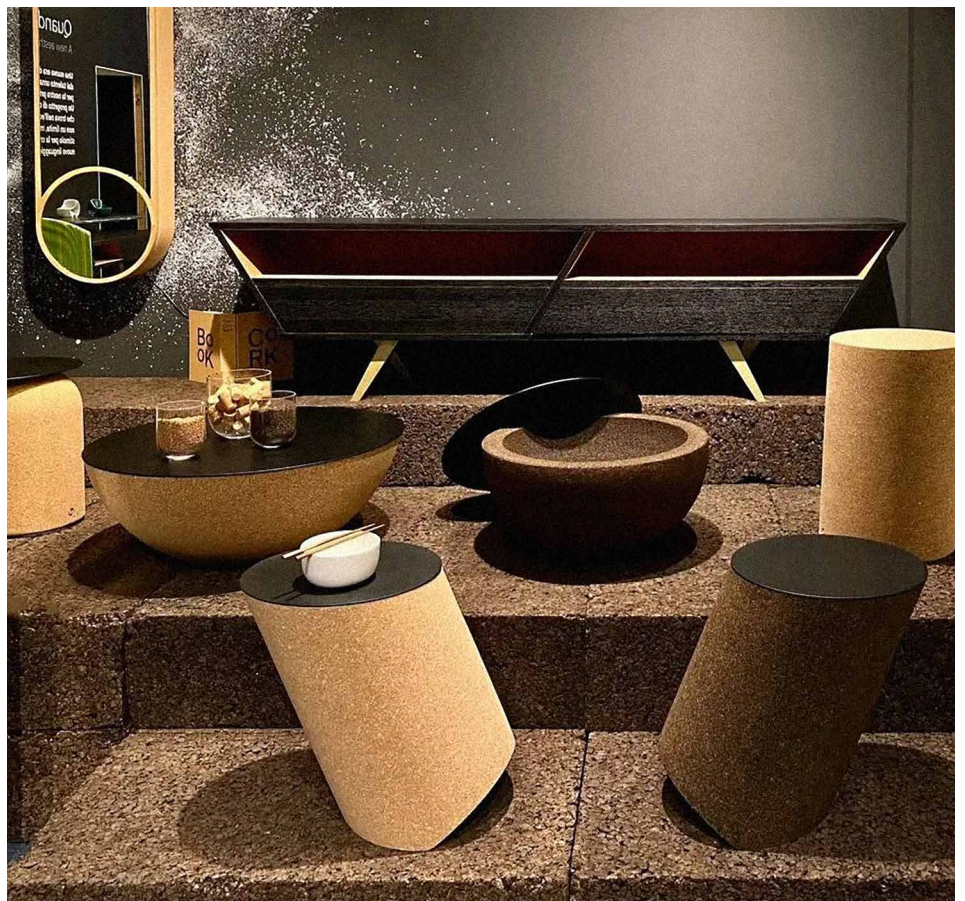
(MoMA), but are now organised by Global Design News and The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design. The awards offer a unique opportunity for competitors to be ranked amongst the world's leading designers, architects and manufacturers. In October, an exhibition of all the winning projects will open in Athens, where the awards ceremony will also be held. This is a special moment of celebration that will bring together designers, manufacturers and industry experts to honour the innovative spirit and talent underpinning the winning projects.



# Cork showcased in the Salone del Mobile with the Suber Design collection

Cork was one of the highlights in the 61st edition of the Salone del Mobile - the world's most prestigious design fair, which ran between April 18 to 23 in the Fiera Milano Rho. In this global showcase of the latest trends and innovations in the furniture and design industry Amorim Cork Italia's Suber Design collection was unveiled to the world.

Part of the multi-award-winning Suber Cork Second Life project, born from Corticeira Amorim's global commitment to sustainability, this collection represents a natural development of the ETICO Project, a recycling programme launched in 2011, has involved non-profit organisations in Italy in the collection of used cork stoppers. Instead of being discarded, these corks are given a second life, becoming eco-friendly interior design objects whose formal beauty is intrinsically linked to the philosophy that gave rise to them. The presentation of this collection was accompanied by a series of meetings dedicated to the topic "Discovering Cork", which brought together various international names in the sector to debate the role of this raw material in the future of sustainable design and architecture. Cork's strong presence at this renowned event reinforces its position as the preferred material for architects and designers around the world: from flooring with conceptual visual effects, to modern interior panelling and essential insulation, cork is a conscious and versatile choice that adds value and beauty to every project in which it is applied.



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# We are ON! New Generations

Corticeira Amorim has launched the first edition of the event, “We are ON! New Generations” event, which emphasises the value and importance it places on its young employees. The event – that was attended by the CEO António Rios de Amorim and the professor Pedro Santa Clara – offered a unique moment to highlight the organisation’s mission and values. These principles were encapsulated by the enthusiasm and curiosity of our young employees at various points during the event.







and future context, sharing diverse opinions and perspectives on this topic that was relevant to all the participants. Moderated by Carlos Bessa, the group's Communications Manager, the panel "Work in the Future?" explored topics such as the integration of Artificial Intelligence into business, the expectations and aspirations of the new generation and the challenges posed by the current global economic context. It was clear that Corticeira Amorim is sensitive to market changes and the aspirations of its employees, as António Rios de Amorim explained: "Young people are helping to build Corticeira Amorim's future. That's why we want them to be not only our present, but also the ambition of the future." Vanessa Teixeira, Head of Corporate HR Projects, reinforced this message by emphasising the unique opportunity provided by the event. With a vision aligned with the company's mission, she pointed out that Corticeira Amorim is not just focused on employees who are now joining the company, but on creating a general environment that is a factor of continuous growth and development for all. The event ended with an "Ask The CEO" session, marked by the young employees' boldness and curiosity. It was not only possible to pose questions, but also outline solutions and guidelines for the future. At the end, there was a relaxed atmosphere of celebration amongst everyone that helped consolidate relationships and strengthen a sense of belonging. The event was more than a meeting; it was a milestone, that represents Corticeira Amorim's commitment to investing in its human capital for the future: its New Generations, now more "ON" than ever.



The event kicked off at the Círculo Universitário do Porto with a dynamic teambuilding session, where more than 150 young employees of Corticeira Amorim were able to break the ice and strengthen their bonds. The first edition of "We are ON! New Generations" did more than just bring together young employees; it created a favourable environment for exchanging ideas and sharing the fundamental values that drive Corticeira Amorim.

One of the highlights was the speech by the group's Chairman and CEO, António Rios de Amorim, whose inspiring words outlined the company's vision for the coming years. In a panel on the Future of Work, Pedro Santa Clara and Manuel Miranda, Sector Sales Leader at Amorim Cork Composites and Catarina Araújo, Amorim Cork's Human Resources Business Partner, spoke about the challenges facing young people and companies in the current

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# Innovation on a global scale: Xpür® is conquering the world

Launched in 2021 by Amorim Cork, the supercritical fluid technology that is applied to Xpür® microgranulated stoppers is already embraced by wine producers across five continents. Technological innovation can make it possible to eliminate sensory deviations, while ensuring that cork's natural properties and its sustainability credentials are preserved intact.





What if TCA and other sensory deviations had their days numbered? That seems to be the promise offered by Xpür® - the new supercritical fluid technology developed by Amorim Cork, which marks a before and after moment in the fight against negative volatile compounds. Since its launch in 2021, the pioneering technology applied to microgranulated cork stoppers has been adopted by wine producers around the world, who trust Amorim Cork's Xpür® stoppers as the best sealing solution for their wines. Thanks to their effectiveness, verified by independent studies, in delivering non-detectable TCA performance\* and eliminating other negative volatile compounds, Xpür® stoppers have generated tremendous enthusiasm in the wine world, boosting sales of this type of closure internationally and even leading to the construction of a second production plant, which will be operational by the end of 2023. Although used since the early 1960s, supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> extraction technologies were initially primarily applied in the food industry (tea, coffee, extraction of hops, spices, etc.). It took until the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for them to be applied to cork. Now, thanks

to major R&D+i investments by Amorim Cork, they are taking another step, constituting a huge leap forward, with a global impact. This is because Xpür® does more, with less, fulfilling its objectives much more efficiently than traditional supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> technology, using only 25% of the energy and 10% of the CO<sub>2</sub> previously required. Supercritical, super-technological and super-sustainable, Xpür® stoppers have no unnecessary chemical impacts, are comprised by 98% natural cork and offer the best CO<sub>2</sub> balance of microgranulated cork stoppers (-393 g/e per stopper), as confirmed by a recent Price Waterhouse Coopers study\*\*, with a consistently low O<sub>2</sub> transfer rate. This new technology is currently applied to two ranges of microgranulated stoppers in Amorim Cork's portfolio: Xpür® and Qork®, both of which are manufactured with 98% cork granules by volume. The difference is that Qork® manages to be even "greener", because it uses a binder made from polyols of 100% vegetable origin. Ideal for premium, fast-drinking wines, Xpür® stoppers offer a unique combination of innovation, sustainability and efficiency. They have an attractive appearance, facilitate extraction and offer

the highest percentage of cork of any microgranulated cork stopper. All this while ensuring that no undesirable compounds undermine the greatness of the wine.

\* Releasable TCA content equal to or less than the detection limit of 0.3 ng/l; analysis conducted according to an in-house method based on the ISO 20752 standard.

\*\* The independent study conducted by the consultancy firm Price Waterhouse Coopers revealed that Xpür® stoppers have a carbon footprint of -3.542 g of CO<sub>2</sub> per stopper, when considering the carbon stored in the stopper, assessed using a cradle-to-gate approach. Considering shipment to the UK, the carbon footprint is -2.086 g CO<sub>2</sub> per stopper. If we take into account the carbon sequestration of the cork oak forest, the Xpür® stopper has a carbon balance of -393 g of CO<sub>2</sub> per stopper, considering transport to the UK.

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# Christophe Sauvaud: Marathon Man



Christophe Sauvaud ran the the legendary 250 km Marathon des Sables, in the south of the Moroccan Sahara, with the tenacity and resilience of a cork oak tree. In an interview with Amorim News, the general manager of Amorim Top Series France explains that in the desert, as in life, you need goals to move forward.

The Marathon des Sables (Marathon of the Sands) is a legendary race, that spans 250 kilometres of scorching sand, with endless climbs, impossible descents, stony ground and beautiful dunes that hide more difficulties than their apparent smoothness seems to promise. Since 1986 the marathon has taken athletes from all over the world to the south of the Moroccan Sahara for an experience that many describe as “excessive”, but also beautiful and transformative. Frenchman Christophe Sauvaud, 60, is one of these amateur athletes, and is also general manager of Amorim Top Series France. Having already competed in dozens of athletics events, including 10 marathons, the Marathon des Sables was on his “bucket list”. He resolved this at the end of April 2023, because after months of training, and showing the resilience of a cork oak tree, Sauvaud completed the six stages of this epic race - which is equivalent, on average, to one marathon per day. It is not only a test of the participants’ physical and mental condition, but also an incredible test of their self-sufficiency. Each athlete carries their own equipment and food, and the organisation distributes limited quantities of water at checkpoints at 10 km intervals, where participants can rest. Christophe Sauvaud prepared for several months for one of the toughest races on the planet. “Running is demanding. I hope to be able to run for many more years, which takes rigour, will, commitment and hard work,” says Sauvaud, who began running 20 years ago. “This involves personal values, life values, and also values that we find in the Amorim group,” he concludes. Sauvaud, who joined Amorim in 2008 after a career working in the spirits sector, was one of the 1,100 participants, from 55 different nationalities, who began the 37th edition of this challenging desert race. Of these, 30% dropped out, in part, due to the harshness of the marathon - which requires careful management of hydration, nutrition and rest - and also the particularly adverse conditions of this year’s edition. As Sauvaud explains, the temperature was always higher than 40°C, reaching peaks of over 50°C at some points along the route. This was the second most difficult edition of the event, only surpassed by the October 2021 edition.



## In the race, as in life

Despite the tremendous challenge, it was an unforgettable and rewarding experience. Sauvaud remembers the harshness of the race, but above all he cherishes the moments of sharing at the end of each day when the participants, sharing rudimentary tents set up in the desert, gathered in a simple camp under the stars. “From a human perspective, it’s an extraordinary race. We forge very strong bonds of friendship and there was a lot of solidarity. In conditions as challenging as those of the desert, it’s impossible not to think of the fortitude and resilience of the cork oak tree, resisting strong temperatures, baked by the sun, and yet contributing, in its humble majesty, to regulating the hydrological cycle of the soil while generously giving off its greatest treasure, cork. Did this tree, which he knows so well, serve as an inspiration for Sauvaud? Probably so, he finds many parallels between running and life: “To get ahead, in life and in sport, you need projects

and passion. Without work and passion, you can’t achieve results.” It’s these goals that drive him, and that’s why he feels completely at home at Amorim, and says he truly appreciates its dynamic atmosphere: “What I like most about Amorim is that we never stand still. We’re in gear, but it’s a positive gear. We’re passionate, highly committed and very attached to the Amorim group. There’s a big distance between Portugal and France, but in fact we’re right next door. There are projects, there’s this desire to move forward.” The same desire that motivates him to get up every day to work, and which will most likely lead him back to the Marathon des Sables, in two years’ time. It was the toughest race he’s ever taken part in, he confesses, but that’s precisely why he wants to return. It takes strength of mind to complete the race, above anything else: “You have to have a warrior’s mentality,” Sauvaud explains, concluding with a smile, “That’s why, you have to work at Amorim”.



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«Maintaining the focus on cork production, which is the heart and soul of the project, the Herdade da Torre invests in diversification and operates on “several fronts”, in particular through investment in renewable energies.»

In Ponte de Sôr, Portalegre, the Herdade da Torre has been a leading reference for cork production in Portugal for over more than centuries. The owner, António Mascarenhas, talks about the past, present and future of the estate, which like its huge forest, has deep roots and must seek ways to renew itself.

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The cork oak forest is a unique ecosystem based on the interaction between man and nature, including the fauna and flora and the environmental conditions. This relationship began at a very early age for António Mascarenhas, manager of the Herdade da Torre estate, that has been owned by his family for five centuries and is now part of the Casas de Fronteira e Alorna Foundation. “My father was the manager of the Condado da Torre. I moved here as an infant and stayed until I was ten years old. Since it was primarily a forestry estate, I was able to follow life in the countryside and the forest from an early age. It’s what I always wanted to do. So when I went to Lisbon to study, I chose a course that would enable me to return, and I’ve always been involved in the life of the estate, to which I belonged”. As he looks back on his life, he finds it difficult to single out a single memory of cork, but António Mascarenhas still makes an effort: “When I wasn’t at school, I would always accompany our foreman, Serafim. I was almost his driver. We’d see the cork, the harvest, we’d walk through the fields, we’d go and see the cork yard. I was able to see how the entire process proceeded - the planks, the cork, checking whether it was good or bad.” he recalls, “That was a bit of a normal day for me, perhaps not for a child nowadays. There were others who did the same, right? But it’s always interesting, knowing or having that experience also makes it easier to understand”. The naturalness with which he immersed himself in the world of cork gave him tools that he applies today, with the same familiarity, in management of the estate, which is especially relevant on a large undertaking: there are more than 7,000 hectares, with around 5,300 hectares of cork oak forest, but also eucalyptus trees (around 700 hectares) and stone pine trees (100 hectares). On an estate where cork is the main crop, the agricultural dimension remains active, and over the years various crops have been grown there. “It’s a natural thing” he concludes, “Even from a management perspective, I think it always has an impact. Because even naturally we have reactions that we’ve had since we were little, and it’s different from someone who takes a university degree, arrives in the countryside, and asks themselves ‘now where do I look?’” It’s this gaze, which bridges the gap between the past and future, that he projects in a convinced but passionate manner in the Herdade da Torre.

## A bit of family history

The first historical records of the Herdade da Torre date back to the 16th century. It was an ancient Morgadio (majorat) that later became the Condado da Torre, and which today retains its original size of 7,204 hectares. “Ultimately, in the family’s history, this Estate only became relevant when cork began to increase in value, and it wasn’t simply cork. There are few historical records of this estate. There’s a funny story about when the railway line arrived, the Count of Torre said yes sir, they could build it, but on the condition that they left a station in the Torre das Vargens. Furthermore, the tower was subsequently moved to the village of Torre das Vargens. The most interesting thing is undoubtedly that the estate has maintained its original size over the years, in face of all the different circumstances. It’s an almost unreal number, and also a great responsibility,” he concludes. In the 1980s, Dom José Maria Mascarenhas, António Mascarenhas’ father, decided to build small dams in the estate, something that António believes was decisive for the future of Herdade da Torre. “It was a very important thing, which is what safeguards us now. It was something my father talked about a lot, and today it has become even more important. In other words, my irrigated land has water all year round thanks to these small dams”. During this period, there was a great deal of development on the estate, with various crops, in particular tobacco production, enabling it to gain a prominent role in the industry. With regard to the cork oak forest, an innovation was also introduced at that time - the phasing of the area of the cork oak forest into different plots - which makes it possible to have a constant annual cork harvesting system. “Few people realise what this entails”, explains António Mascarenhas, “but I do, I’ve been doing it for 40 years and it’s not finished”.

## The path of diversification

Even in a resilient forest like the cork oak forest, the impact of climate change is felt. Familiar with the theory, but also with the terrain, António Mascarenhas monitors the harvest and notes the differences, the increasingly short time to extract cork, and the way in which, in some years, the cork oak trees, as a result of these changes, find it more difficult to “give” cork. While maintaining its focus on cork production, which is the basis and soul of the project, the Herdade da Torre estate is investing in diversification, working on “several fronts”, in particular by investing in renewable energies. “Not in the cork oak forest areas, which are fortunately protected, but in other areas that are having a big impact on renewable energy production. Basically, we’re investing in diversifying resources and income, and with renewable energies, with the installation of photovoltaic panels in some areas, with forestry and irrigation, there are several fronts that help each other, wherein cork is obviously the main segment”.

«we’re investing in diversifying resources and income, and with renewable energies, with the installation of photovoltaic panels in some areas, with forestry and irrigation, there are several fronts that help each other, wherein cork is obviously the main segment»



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## Need for renovation

The renewal of the cork oak forest in Portugal, a concern shared by many producers, is a central issue when thinking about the future of the forest. “From what I see, from the knowledge obtained from some producers, since I don’t know the entire national reality, I think it’s increasingly difficult to plan for the long term. It’s only for those who live and who are actually farmers or foresters who think like that. Because it’s difficult to make a commitment to the cork oak forest over the long term: if we think about planting or reforestation, the success rate is very low; the health problems with oak pinhole borer or flathead oak borer are destroying the health of the cork oak forest and destroying many trees. What happens is that we extract the cork, and if there is no renewal of the forest, which is often unnoticeable, 20 or 30 years later the cork oak trees are already 100 or 120 years old. Basically, if there isn’t a balance between dying and new trees, you will reach a breaking point”.

Planting new cork oak trees could be a solution, but for António Mascarenhas, especially in areas with poor soils, this is very difficult due to the low success rate. “The solution, I think, is to try to valorise the cork oak forest, so that there is some financial availability to invest,” he argues. “We don’t have any mechanisms for dealing with health problems in the forest. So there’s only one way to improve it - to sow or plant. They’re not ideal, nor are they perfect, but I think they’re easier to develop through successful planting techniques, rather than extending the cork oak forest to barren areas, which seems unrealistic to me. Another is soil correction. I have a personal, empirical idea, but it’s my own point of view, that as a result of climate change - it’s notorious that rainfall is being concentrated in ever shorter and more spaced out periods - there is a pressing need for undergrowth, underbrush”. António Mascarenhas doesn’t advocate “uncontrolled undergrowth”. He simply points to the need to create conditions of humidity and shade that will enable young cork oak trees to grow.

## Thinking about the future

“In any forestry area, we see that growth always leads to more production, and in an intensive way. So it makes sense to develop several areas, including the cork oak tree. I think it’s important to invest in irrigation, as long as there is tree-related research. In other words, we’re not going to irrigate a tree with great genetic variability. Irrigating trees that aren’t selected is dangerous and a waste of time. And I think that’s what’s happening, since we’re investing in research.

The only concern I have about having so much irrigation is that there won’t be enough water for everything. And from what I understand, I don’t know if removing irrigation after 20 years will work. And there are special rules for cork oak forests.

If there is to be irrigation of the cork oak forest, there has to be its own legislation, because this isn’t possible under current legislation. The law was made to protect the cork oak tree, and that’s a good thing, but there would have to be changes”. Aware that the future may involve cork oak plantations, António Mascarenhas continues to believe in “natural forest”, something he intends to maintain at the Herdade da Torre. “We’re not going to do intensive production, which doesn’t mean there won’t be small patches with this logic.” He has a more cautious perspective: “If there’s a planting problem, I’m interested in protecting regrowth. That’s what we’re doing here. If we’re going to clear the undergrowth, we first have to have people who are on the ground marking the new cork oak trees.”

Looking towards the future, António Mascarenhas believes that everything will be automated, and he can easily imagine robotic equipment - much more precise - replacing undergrowth cutters as an operation. “I believe in planting, but above all in defending regrowth. I also think that we can diversify, that the cork oak forest can be transformed not only for cork production, but also for tourists, following the example set by wine tourism. Another way of creating added value for the forest is the issue of carbon sequestration, which isn’t easy to quantify, but could be a way forward”.

“I think that the solution is to valorise the Cork oak forest (Montado), so that there is some financial availability to be able to invest.”

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# House made of wood, straw and cork wins Italy's biggest sustainable architecture prize

Casa Quattro was the winning project of the prestigious Casa Clima award. It was designed by Luca Compri, the founder of the Lca studio in Varese, We spoke with the architect about this 100% sustainable house, born from a collaboration with Corticeira Amorim's distributor in Italy, Tecnosugheri.





**Sustainability is one of the main focuses of your studio. Can you remember your first contact with cork and your first impressions?**

I've been familiar with cork since I was a child. I used to play with cork bark and used it to make small caves and mountains. Then I saw some insulated cork panels at the Milan Design Fair and immediately thought of using them in one of my projects. It was love at first sight!

**How did you decide to use cork in the Casa Quattro project?**

What were the end results? I wanted to make a house that was completely sustainable and recyclable. I asked my clients solely to use truly natural materials, such as wood, rice straw (internal insulation) and cork (external insulation). We liked the cork so much that we decided not to cover it. Instead, we photographed it in 3D, making the façades of the house truly special and vibrant in sunlight.

**You recently had the opportunity to visit Portugal and learn about the cork harvesting process and our products.**

**Was this your first time in Portugal? What did you learn from the experience?**

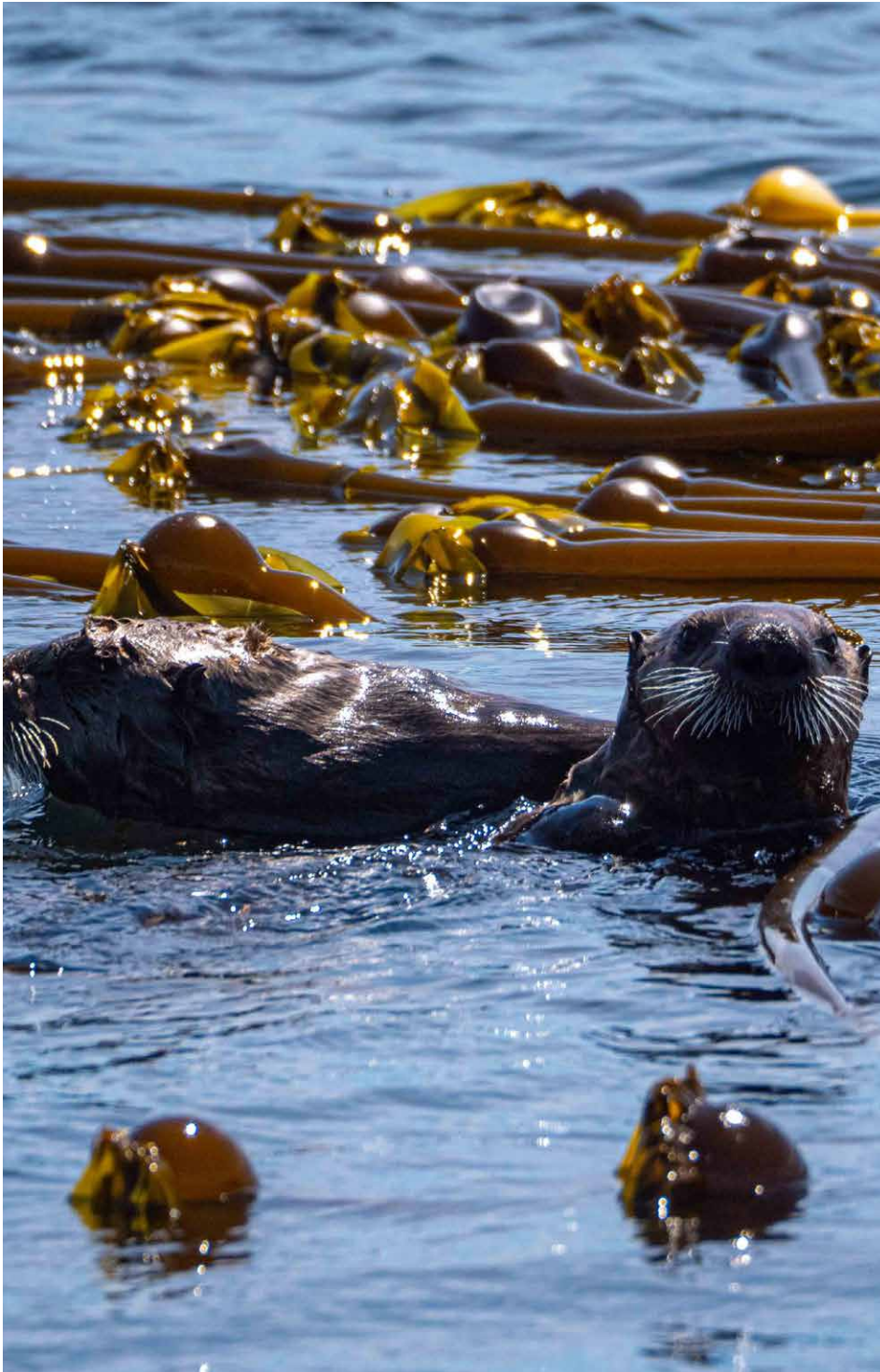
No, many years ago I visited the cork oak forest and the factory where Amorim's panels are produced. This is basically the fourth time I've been to Portugal. I find the country and people very friendly! I learnt a lot from this experience and really understood that cork has a very high degree of sustainability.

**How do you imagine the role of materials such as cork in shaping the buildings and structures of tomorrow?**

Casa Quattro won the Wood Architecture Prize 2023 in Italy, which is perhaps our country's most important recognition for sustainable architecture. The building won this prize precisely because it represents the possibility of building a house with natural materials and with great attention

not only to the planet and saving energy, but also to architectural quality. Sustainability corresponds above all to beauty, and good architecture must always take this into account.

# Sea Change: a sustainable wave in the wine industry

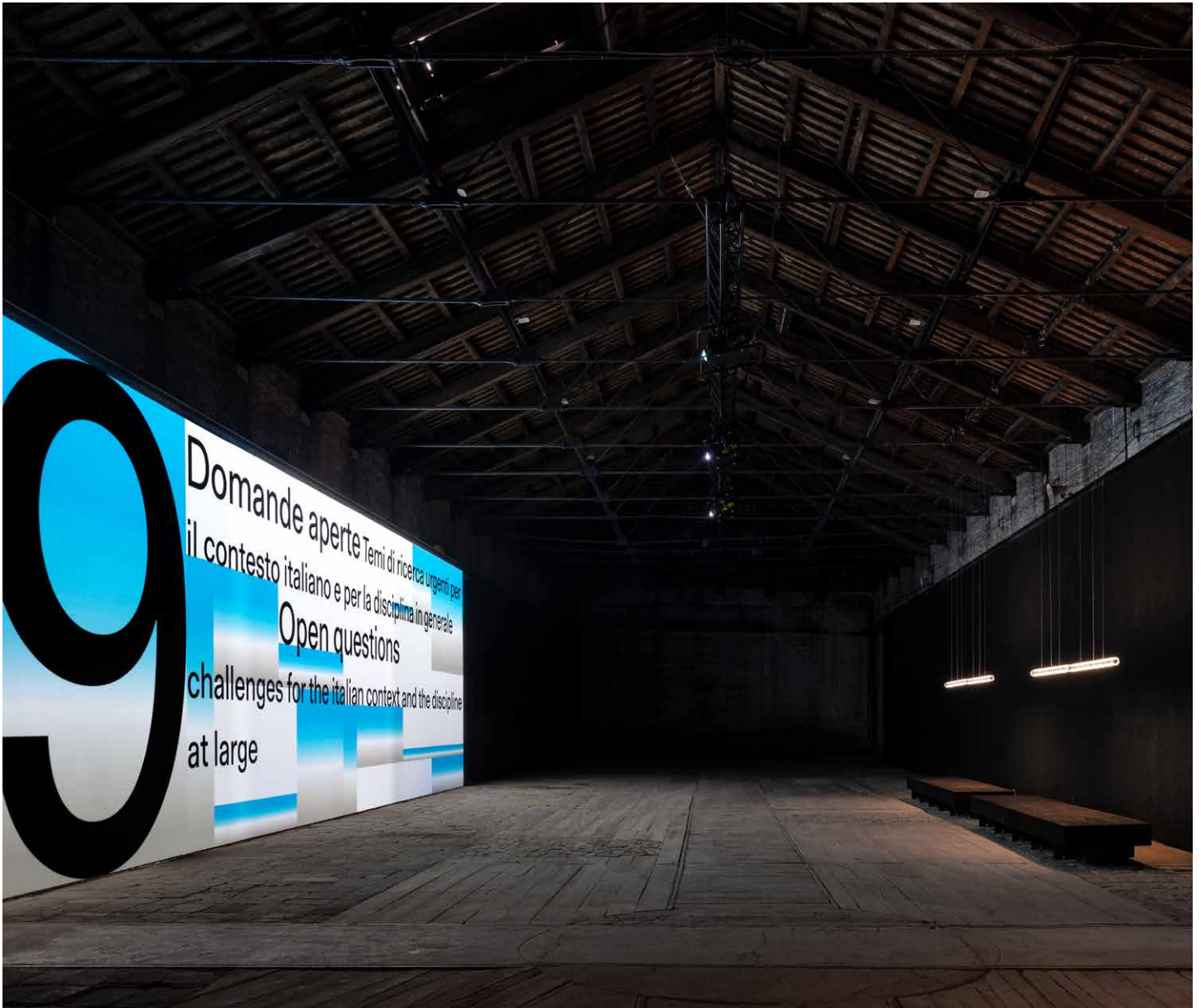


Sea Change is a range of award-winning ecological wines, that has established a partnership with Corticeira Amorim to put cork stoppers in all its bottles, followed a study conducted by the company into the environmental impact of a traditional wine bottle. This decision complements other measures that aim to outline a more sustainable approach for the wine industry, including the elimination of plastic wrapping around the cork, the use of 100% recycled and recyclable packaging, and the selection of FSC® certified paper for the wine labels. But the wave of sustainability doesn't end there. Each bottle sold helps fund ocean conservation projects. Over €350,000 has been raised to date for its marine charity partners. The partnership with Corticeira Amorim has generated reflection about the many parallels between terrestrial and marine forests and the crucial role of both in combating climate change. Carlos de Jesus, Amorim's Marketing and Communications Director, expresses the company's satisfaction with this partnership: "At Amorim, we are delighted to see a sustainable wine project that is not only supporting the cork industry, but proving that sustainability is not just something nice for consumers, but something that can be a decisive factor in the success of any business." Toby Hancock, Sea Change's CEO, added: "The response from consumers to Sea Change Wine's approach has been overwhelming, and we are thrilled to be working closely with Amorim as a key partner in bringing this project to life."

# Cork's discreet materiality showcased in the Venice Biennale



In the project by the studio, Fosbury Architecture, for the Italian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2023, cork stood out through the materiality and sustainability of a proposal designed for the new millennium. Amorim Cork Flooring's cork solutions lined the exhibition units of the Spaziale exhibition, thereby creating a narrative unity which simultaneously refers to the expansion of architecture as a discipline.



Cork will be showcased in the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2023, in a project developed by the renowned Fosbury Architecture collective. The theme of the biennial's 18th edition is "The laboratory of the future", based on the urgent need to find solutions to the common problems that face humanity and the planet. The Italian pavilion, organised in the form of an exhibition, will host part of the Spaziale proposal - a tripartite initiative that in the context of the global crisis of the new millennium of scarce resources, invites architects to form a "movement" that expands the boundaries of architecture, pushing it in a new direction. Perhaps that is why cork - a natural, reusable and recyclable material - was chosen to cover the displayed items, creating a fluid and unitary discourse and a continuum between the exhibition's nine proposals,

created by different studios from various parts of Italy. The Fosbury Architecture collective was founded in 2013, by five young architects born in the late 1980s - Giacomo Ardesio, Alessandro Bonizzoni, Nicola Campri, Veronica Caprino, and Claudia Mainardi. The studio views architecture as a mediating tool between the individual and the collective, and also between "expectations and resources, sustainability and pragmatism". In a project developed with support from Amorim Cork Flooring, cork was chosen in Venice due to its materiality and sustainability, and also its Italian identity. With experimental proposals that extend beyond conventional limits, the Fosburys question the established notion of architecture, emphasising the process and the relationship between people, communities and places that are triggered by architecture,

rather than the built object as the discipline's primary goal. This is precisely what the studio is proposing in Venice, in an exhibition that runs until 26 November and brings together the interventions of nine Italian architects from various parts of the country, based on local experiences, ultimately creating an outline of the Italian peninsula. In this shared journey, it is the strength of the collective that emerges, and cork helps create a spatial unity comprised by diversity and sustainability.

# Our People



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# AMORIM

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# Sustainable by nature