# AMORIM NEWS

**YEAR 43** / ISSUE 2

## Coming home.

The Casa do Fundador. The birthplace of Corticeira Amorim. A place where belief in cork and its potential overcame all obstacles, and where the values that still guide us today were forged. Today, the house is being reborn through a restoration project led by Joana Rios de Amorim, which is reviving the purpose of this historic and family-owned site. A space designed to welcome clients and institutional partners and bring them to the heart of the company. Shall we go inside?

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**3** A legacy with a future
*Joana Rios de Amorim*
**4** Corticeira Amorim is one of the Financial Times' Europe's Climate Leaders
**5** Sustainability and decarbonisation: Corticeira Amorim distinguished again by World Finance
**6** Amorim Cork launches ALØ, a new range for the NOLO revolution
**8** Coming home: the renovation of the Casa do Fundador
**12** 5th Edition of the Safety Forum reinforces the accident prevention culture
**13** Blue Bioeconomy Pact brings together industry, cork and marine resources
**14** Cork in the spotlight in the Lucio Costa Archive exhibition
**15** Concours Mondial de Bruxelles and Amorim Cork launch a cork stopper recycling programme
**16** In Pretoria, cork gave voice to Portuguese identity
**18** Pure beauty: cork is taking the interior design world by storm
**19** Corticeira Amorim receives the Caixa ESG – Supply Chain award
**20** SALTO: cork is conquering space as part of a European consortium
**22** Leading the Future
**23** Our People

# A legacy with a future

*Joana Rios de Amorim*
*Board Member* of AIP

There are places that embody the soul of an organisation. Places where history is born, where values are established, and where an identity is forged. For Corticeira Amorim, that place is the Casa do Fundador (Founder's House). Our history began here - 156 years ago. As a member of the fourth generation, serving the Family, I have always viewed this space not only as a historic landmark, but as the cradle of the values, courage, and resilience that have brought us to where we are today. For me, coordinating the restoration process was both an honour and a mission: to pay tribute to our Family's past while simultaneously preparing the space and environment for new ventures in the future.
The project was supported by an architectural and interior design team and the biggest challenge was to respect its legacy. We insisted on preserving unique elements, such as certain items of original furniture and, above all, the house's valuable photographic collection. These images — which depict everything from family moments to state visits that have honoured the company over the decades — are a living testament to a legacy that blends tradition with our global significance.
Today, the three renovated dining rooms are suitable for catering to our most distinguished institutional clients. Hosting guests in a Family Home means sharing our core identity: it means sharing our origins, honouring the path that we've travelled, while confidently affirming the vision that guides our future.
This project celebrates continuity maintained over several generations, but no legacy is built in a vacuum. Corticeira Amorim is able to continue to grow and look with confidence towards the future thanks to everyone's daily commitment, teamwork, spirit of innovation and our constant ambition to do better.
More than just restoring a building, this project embodies a vision of continuity. By renovating the Founder's House, we are strengthening our own foundations. By paying tribute to the legacy from preceding generations and from all the people who helped build this House, we are reinvigorating the foundations upon which we will continue to build Corticeira Amorim's future. Because preserving our history is also the best way to prepare for the future.

**YEAR 43**
ISSUE 2
SEPTEMBER 2026

**Head Office**
Rua Comendador Américo Ferreira Amorim, nº 380
4535-186 Mozelos VFR
Portugal

**Property of**
Corticeira Amorim

**Coordination**
Corporate Communication Department

**Editorial**
Editorialista
Inês Pimenta
Beatriz Grave

**Opinion**
Joana Rios de Amorim

**Publisher**
Corticeira Amorim

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

**English translation**
Sombra Chinesa

**German, Spanish and French translation**
Expressão

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

**Distribution**
Iberomail Correio Internacional, Lda
CTT – Correios de Portugal, SA

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

**Periodicity**
Quarterly

**Print run**
16,493 copies

**Legal Deposit**
386410/15

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C114687
www.fsc.org

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# Corticeira Amorim is one of the Financial Times' Europe's Climate Leaders

The annual *Ranking* - drawn up by the media group in collaboration with Statista - highlights the European companies that have made the greatest progress in reducing carbon emissions.

Corticeira Amorim is one of Europe's "climate leaders" -ranked in the 236th position in the sixth edition of the Financial Times' Europe's Climate Leaders ranking, compiled in partnership with the global data platform, Statista. The annual ranking distinguishes the 600 companies that have made the greatest progress in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, based on measurable, verifiable, and comparable criteria.
Companies must be headquartered in one of the 33 eligible European countries, have revenue of at least €40 million and independently report Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2019 and 2024, as well as Scope 3 emissions for 2024, among other requirements.
To assess companies' progress in their climate performance, the methodology relies on a direct comparison between 2019 (the baseline year) and 2024. Each company is assigned a score, based on specific metrics, such as reductions in Scope 1 and 2 emissions — including reductions in absolute emissions and emissions intensity (metric tons of $CO_2$ equivalent per million euros in revenue) — and criteria such as a minimum CDP rating of B- and alignment with initiatives such as the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), among others.
Statista is a global data and business intelligence platform, offering statistics and reports across various fields for use in academia and the business world.
Its Statista R division (responsible for "ranking") is a global leader in creating rankings and lists of the world's leading companies, brands and products, based on comprehensive market research and in-depth data analysis. In collaboration with more than 40 media brands across all continents, Statista R provides an extensive collection of statistics, reports and analyses on more than 80,000 topics, drawn from 22,500 sources and covering 170 business sectors. Through this distinction, Corticeira Amorim has reinforced its alignment with, and commitment to, international best practices in climate management and its consistent path toward decarbonisation.

# Sustainability and decarbonisation: Corticeira Amorim distinguished again by World Finance

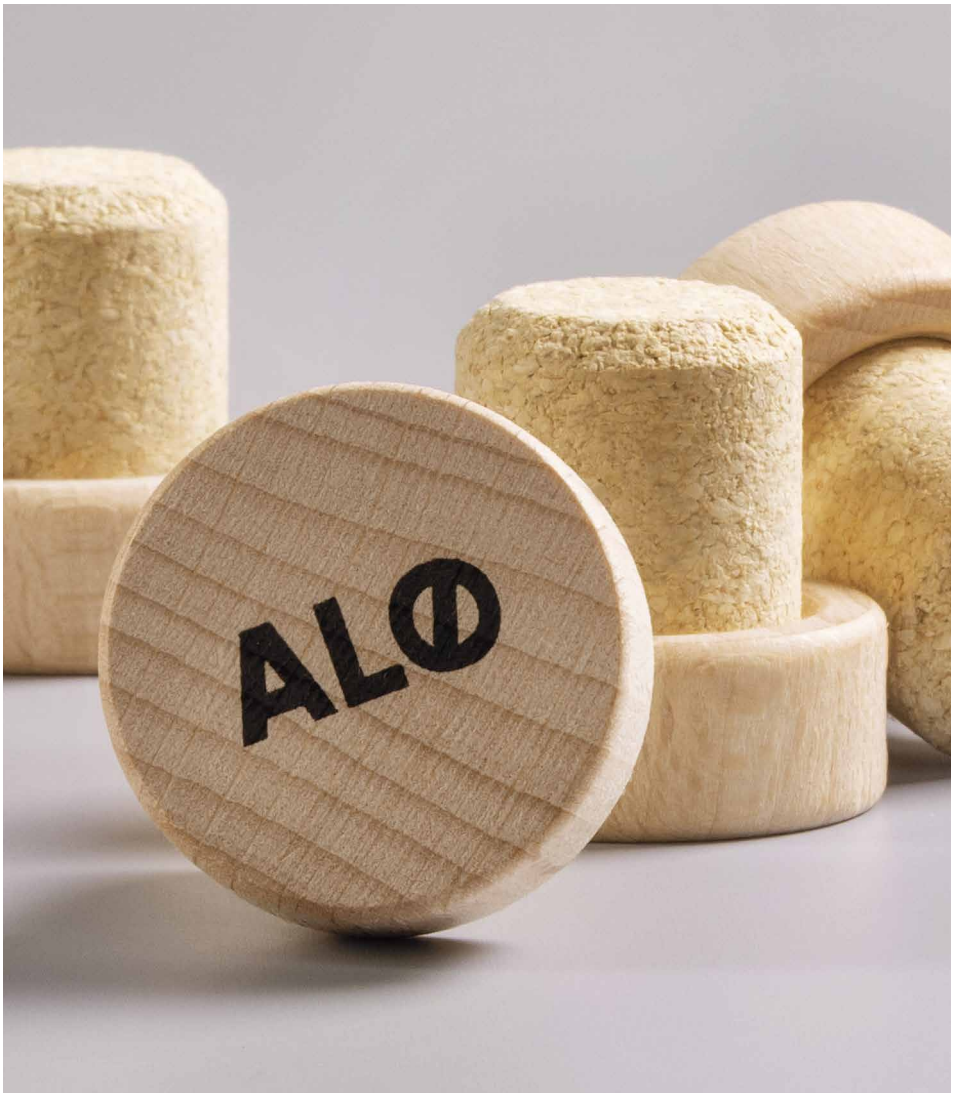
By awarding the prizes for "Best Company in Carbon Reduction – 2025" and "Most Sustainable Company in the Wine Products Industry – 2026", the prestigious magazine has once again recognised Corticeira Amorim's leadership in the field of sustainability.

These two new awards recognise the company's dedication and commitment to best practices in the field of sustainability. By clearly integrating ESG criteria into its business model, Corticeira Amorim has once again been recognised for its commitment and contribution to a greener industry and more equitable future for all. The World Finance Carbon Awards recognise companies that are leading the way in decarbonisation, through continuous transformation across all areas of their business, thereby reducing the associated impact on people and the planet. By awarding Corticeira Amorim the "Best Company in Carbon Reduction – 2025" award, World Finance highlights Corticeira Amorim's long-term commitment to climate action and the results achieved during the evaluation period, notably through key measures - such as the electrification of production processes, gradual replacement of fossil--fuel-dependent equipment, investment in renewable energies and the implementation of lower-carbon logistics solutions in cork processing activities. Meanwhile, the Most Sustainable Company in the Wine Products Industry – 2026 award, presented to Corticeira Amorim for the eighth consecutive year, recognises the group's pivotal role in promoting cork as a renewable material, with circular economy characteristics and in preserving cork oak forest ecosystems. The company has been expanding programmes that promote biodiversity and developing innovative initiatives that extend and optimise the life cycle of its products, enabling cork stoppers and related products to have a reduced environmental footprint, as demonstrated by recognised results and initiatives. According to World Finance, these awards reflect "Corticeira Amorim's leadership and capacity for innovation in promoting decarbonisation and sustainability in the global wine industry." For António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim, these awards constitute an incentive to keep on the right track: "World Finance's renewed attribution of these awards reinforces the recognition of our long-term strategic commitment to sustainability, based on valuing cork as a material of environmental excellence and the continuous innovation of our processes and solutions. We will continue to invest in initiatives that advance the decarbonisation of our operations and contribute to a more sustainable future for the wine industry's entire value chain."

# Amorim Cork launches ALØ, a new range for the NOLO revolution

In line with recent consumer trends and the surge in popularity of NOLO wines, Amorim Cork is launching a new range of cork stoppers tailored to the characteristics and requirements of this segment.

Innovative, sustainable and making the most of cork's unique characteristics, the new ALØ range – specially designed for NOLO drinks (non-alcoholic or low-alcohol) – introduces a new way to celebrate, whilst retaining the essence of the uncorking ritual: from the unmistakable popping sound to the feel of the cork stopper between the fingers. In a changing landscape, where we are witnessing explosive growth of NOLO drinks, the new generations of consumers – Generation Z and Millennials – increasingly value health and well-being, with a visible impact on their choices and behaviour. At the same time, they attach greater importance to adopting more sustainable behaviour and solutions. Within this new paradigm, it is an exciting challenge to develop closures that keep pace with the rapid evolution of the drinks industry, without undermining authenticity and tradition. Sustainability is now a key priority, and packaging is no longer viewed as a mere container but has become an experience in its own right. The cork stopper, as a natural closure with a negative carbon footprint and unique performance compared to other solutions, clearly has a great deal to offer.




## Three segments

Keeping pace with this trend, and to respond to this new outlook, Amorim Cork's ALØ range spans three distinct lines – ALØ Still, for still wines; ALØ Spark, for sparkling wines; and ALØ Spirits, for spirits. These three solutions, which share cork as a common feature and are optimised for wines with low, or no alcohol content, offer a perfectly tailored response to the emerging consumer category – one that is clearly distinct and aligned with the new reality that many describe as a 'revolution'. An innovative natural cork stopper for modern times, ALØ is proof that some things never change. Especially if, like cork, they are unique. ALØ retains all the elements that epitomise the original uncorking ritual: a traditional and authentic experience, marked by the characteristic 'popping' sound when opening the bottle; the preservation of the wine's flavour and aroma; sensory neutrality and microbiological safety, essential for wines with lower alcohol content; and the sustainability and premium quality that a cork stopper guarantees. ALØ simultaneously symbolises authenticity, a connection to nature and boundless innovation. It reinforces the value of the cork stopper as a reliable, recyclable and authentic seal – from the forest to the glass, from time-honoured rituals to new ways of celebrating – keeping pace with the evolution of the drinks industry, without undermining its essence.

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# Coming home: the renovation of the Casa do Fundador

Around 18 months after the renovation project began, the Casa do Fundador (Founder's House) – which preserves the memory and legacy of the Amorim family – reopens its doors, inviting visitors to discover the most intimate side of a history spanning more than 156 years.

Home is the place to which we return. It is a refuge and shelter, but is also often, the place where everything begins. Or starts anew. The same is true of the Casa do Fundador (Founder's House). In the early 20th century, António Alves Amorim and Ana Pinto Alves settled here, after the disappointing results from their first business venture in Vila Nova de Gaia. The house, which is often described as the 'cornerstone' of the family, and, to a certain extent, of the business too, marked a new stage in their life. The couple returned to Santa Maria de Lamas, where Ana Pinto Alves was born, to chart the course that would lead to the founding of Corticeira Amorim.

## The Founders

António Alves Amorim was born on December 8, 1832 in Santiago de Lourosa, in the municipality of Vila da Feira, now known as Santa Maria da Feira. He grew up in turbulent times, marked by conflict between the absolutists and liberals, and in 1886 married Ana Pinto Alves. The couple set up a cork stopper business in Vila Nova de Gaia, close to the heart of the Port wine industry, but after 20 years of hard work, their financial situation forced them to return to Santa Maria de Lamas. In 1908, António Alves Amorim, then 76 years old, marked a new beginning. His resilience, combined with the energy and determination of his wife, who was almost 33 years his junior, proved to be decisive in the construction of a legacy that went on to span multiple generations.

## The House

Behind the family home in Palheiro da Eira — now converted into the Heritage House museum — the first *alpendre da cortinha* was set up: a term used at the time to refer to cork-processing workshops. With two *garlopas* (the traditional machines used for drilling cork stoppers), six workers, and the help of his oldest sons, a new stage began. The business grew rapidly and steadily. In 1913, just five years later, the workshop was moved to larger facilities equipped with 17 machines.

# The restoration

More than a century later, the Founder's House has undergone a thorough and meticulous restoration process, coordinated by Joana Rios de Amorim, Board Member of Amorim Investimentos e Participações, and member of the family's fourth generation. The aim was to preserve the building's authenticity, preserving its identity as a family home, within the context of its current function as an institutional and hospitality venue.
As Joana Rios de Amorim explains: "Our main concern was to preserve the Founder's House as a genuine family home, without losing sight of its role as a venue that represents the company. We want to welcome our clients in a more personal and authentic manner, return to our roots and share the history of the house and the significance it holds for the family and the company."
The renovation project also sought to reinforce dissemination of the building's heritage. "Today, the house also plays an important role in promoting our legacy. We sought to preserve what already existed there and enrich the visitor experience with content that helps visitors understand the origins of the process. It's important to realise everything begins in the *Montado* (cork oak forest) - in the estates and the forest. During each visit, visitors can learn more about cork, the extraction and processing process, as well as the Herdade do Rio Frio estate, one of the greatest symbols of the company's connection to the forest," she explains.
The renovation project involved the architect Pedro Leão, who supervised the architectural dimension of the house, and the architect Inês Rodrigues, who was responsible for the interiors. From the very beginning, both demonstrated great sensitivity to the building's history and were keen to preserve its original identity.

# Meticulous work

The work focused on restoring the original woodwork, updating the functionality of the spaces, reorganising the libraries and renovating the bathrooms. Restoring the woodwork proved to be particularly challenging, requiring around nine months of specialist work. Reproducing the latticework, mouldings and decorative elements characteristic of the early 20th century required the use of traditional craftsmanship and highly skilled professionals.

# Honouring the memory of the place

Before any work began, extensive historical research was carried out. Photographs, documents and family memories were carefully analysed to understand the identity and essence of each space.
The result is a house that preserves not only its physical heritage, but also the stories, experiences and values that give it meaning.

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"The house reflects the past – the family's history, the generations, the founders, and the memorable moments."

*Joana Rios de Amorim*
Board Member at Amorim, Investimentos e Participações

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# A family home

Over the decades, the Founder's House has been the setting for celebrations, important decisions, successes and challenges. Children and grandchildren grew up there; family ties were strengthened; and business ambitions were nurtured. Today, it serves as the Group's true reception room, welcoming clients and partners in an atmosphere that combines warmth, authenticity and memory. "Especially in honour of the Founder – our unforgettable grandfather – my generation has a moral duty to pass on to our children, nephews, nieces and grandchildren the legacy of this compelling story, which began at the Founder's House, where the origins of this family are preserved and which remains standing and held in high esteem, as an inspiration for new generations", Américo Amorim once wrote.

To create an immersive and evocative atmosphere, Joana Rios de Amorim devised a narrative arc that runs through the different rooms of the house: "The antechamber to the aperitif room serves as an introduction to the tour. It is a space that sparks people's curiosity and makes them want to understand where everything comes from.

In the aperitif room, the narrative begins with the family: first the founders, then key figures such as my uncles Henrique and Américo, followed by the subsequent generations — the first, second, third, fourth and fifth."

The space also highlights the role of bold women, such as Ana Pinto Alves and her daughter Ana, who, "already elderly and having lost her sight, retained her extraordinary ability to select cork stoppers", says Joana Rios de Amorim, recalling a story shared by her father, António Amorim.

Photographs and documents have also been included that bear witness to significant moments in the family's history, including the welcoming of refugees during the Second World War — Gerhard Schiesser and Joseph Seiwerth, then aged around nine — and the international expansion of the business into Brazil, spearheaded by members of the family's second generation. "All of this helps to tell the story of the family and the company," she concludes.

In the Founders' Room, images and displays also highlight how technology, innovation, research and development remain deeply rooted in Corticeira Amorim's identity. As Américo Amorim wrote in the book *Casa do Fundador*: "The Casa do Fundador's mission is to preserve the historical origins of the Amorim family, which continue to inspire new generations."

More than just a return to our roots, the Founder's House stands as a place where the family's legacy is projected into the future, preserving the memory of those who laid the foundations for a journey that continues to inspire future generations. For Joana Rios de Amorim, "The Founder's House is not merely a storehouse of memories. It's a place where the past inspires the future."

# 5th Safety Forum reinforces the accident prevention culture

## World Day for Safety and Health at Work marked with a meeting to reflect and share knowledge, and the launch of the + Safety Channel.

Safety is a shared responsibility, and this was the main theme of the 5th Safety Forum, held on the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, April 28, in the CICIA auditorium at Corticeira Amorim.
The event - that offered an opportunity for sharing, reflection and action - was attended by coordinators from the company's Occupational Health and Safety departments, including presentations by José Carlos Gândara, Corticeira Amorim's Corporate HSE Senior Manager; André Cavadas, Head of Health and Safety at Amorim Cork; Maria Veludo, Head of Health and Safety at Amorim Cork Solutions; Marta Rato – Health and Safety Manager at Amorim Florestal – and with concluding remarks by António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim.
The meeting aimed to share knowledge across teams and, on the basis of these experiences, devise improvements, with a focus on prevention and continuous learning. It also provided an opportunity to launch the 'Canal + Segurança' (+Safety Channel) - a secure platform where anyone can report situations that may pose an occupational safety risk, using a simple and confidential form. The +Safety Channel, which is already in operation, serves to report unsafe situations and near-misses (situations that could have caused an accident) and suggest measures or actions that will make the workplace safer, thereby contributing to the continuous improvement of health and safety at work.
José Carlos Gândara was delighted by the outcome of this fifth edition: "Each Safety Forum represents a renewed commitment to our core aim to protect people. By sharing experiences, discussing challenges and aligning our practices, we are building a stronger, better-prepared and safer organisation. It is this spirit of collaboration that energises the 'Together for Safety' programme and underpins our ambition to achieve Zero Accidents."

# Blue Bioeconomy Pact brings together industry, cork and marine resources

Integrated within the PRR, this mobilising innovation agenda has delivered results that demonstrate the impact of collaboration: expanded knowledge, strengthened partnerships, and new products and materials developed in record time.

What if marine resources could transform Portuguese industry by fostering innovation? This is the aim of the Blue Bioeconomy Pact, an initiative integrated within the Recovery and Resilience Plan, which, by the end of 2026, will implement a series of nationwide reforms and investments aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Following the launch of several new products in June 2026, the Blue Bioeconomy Pact brought together companies, universities and research centres in a robust consortium that set out to "bring the ocean to the shelves" by investing in seven sectors of the economy. Amorim Cork Solutions coordinated the Biomaterials vertical (W1) initiative, which seeks sustainable solutions by bringing together two seemingly distinct yet deeply interconnected worlds: the sea and the forest – two ecosystems through which, by means of innovation, Portugal is ideally placed to excel on the global stage. This sector comprised 12 organisations with extensive experience in the field, including Amorim Cork Solutions and TMG Automotive – companies that have a high level of expertise in marine technology and bioresources (Biotrend, A4F, United Resins and Sirplaste) – together with organisations involved in the development, optimisation and validation of new technologies, such as PIEP, UMinho, UNL, UA, IST and IST ID. The project, coordinated by Amorim Cork Solutions, aims to develop new biomaterials from various raw materials collected from the sea, to be used in industrial applications. The result is three new thermoplastic resins and one thermosetting resin, produced from biopolymers, marine plastic waste, marine-derived PHAs and collagen or modified marine polysaccharides. The raison d'être of the programme is the knowledge created and expanded, skills developed, enduring partnerships, and the future opportunities generated – bringing together two strategic assets for the Portuguese economy – the forest and the sea.

# Cork in the spotlight in the Lucio Costa Archive exhibition

Symbolising the link between Portugal and Brazil, Portuguese cork takes centre stage in the exhibition design, serving to frame the original drawings of the Pilot Plan for Brasília, designed by the Brazilian urban planner in 1957.

© Casa da Arquitectura

Drawing on Lucio Costa's personal archive, that his family donated to the Casa da Arquitectura in 2021, the Lucio Costa Archive exhibition offers an in-depth exploration of the life, thought and legacy of the renowned Brazilian urban planner and architect. On display at the Casa da Arquitectura until October 18, the exhibition is integrated within the celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Portugal and Brazil, and presents not only the public side of Lucio Costa's career, but above all the more private aspects of the life of the urban planner, viewed as one of the 'fathers' of Brasília.

The exhibition revolves around the innovative Pilot Plan for Brasília, that Lucio Costa designed in 1957, which structured Brazil's new capital around two axes. In the central section of the exhibition – featuring original drawings of the Plan, rarely exhibited in Europe – cork is perfectly integrated into the walls, helping create an immersive atmosphere and a symbolic link between Portugal's material identity and one of the greatest icons of modern Brazilian architecture. Cork thereby becomes an integral part of the exhibition's spatial and sensory experience, whilst simultaneously reinforcing the cultural dialogue between Portugal and Brazil – a theme that runs throughout the exhibition – and Lucio Costa's life story, which included several visits to Portugal.

For Cristina Rios Amorim, Corticeira Amorim's Director and Chief Sustainability Officer, this partnership "stems from a clear affinity of values and a shared vision regarding the role of culture, architecture and knowledge as forces that inspire progress and transformation. The Casa da Arquitectura is a living space of memory, thought and creation, where the past engages with the present and charts paths towards the future". She concludes: "For Corticeira Amorim, this partnership represents far more than just institutional support: it is a commitment to critical thinking, to contemporary creation and to an architecture that places people, materials and sustainability at the heart of our decision-making. It is in this convergence of culture, material and territory that cork takes on a new symbolic dimension — as a material of the future, regenerative and deeply connected to identity and the landscape. We believe that investing in culture and knowledge means investing in progress for everyone."

# Concours Mondial de Bruxelles and Amorim Cork launch cork recycling scheme

The initiative takes on particular significance at a time when the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles is preparing to host its 2027 edition in Portugal, incorporating an active cork stopper recycling scheme throughout the event.

In a clear commitment to sustainability and the circular economy, the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles (CMB) and Amorim Cork have jointly launched the first-ever structured cork stopper recycling programme to be held during a wine competition. The initiative, unveiled in June, saw more than 15,000 cork stoppers collected in three days of tasting at the 2026 edition, which will now be given a new lease of life.

This pioneering scheme establishes, for the first time, an active recycling loop for cork stoppers during the event, ensuring that each cork stopper is put to good use – from the forest to the judges' table and, from there, enjoying a second life. Once collected from the thousands of bottles tasted by the CMB's international jury, the stoppers will be forwarded to Amorim Cork for processing. Instead of being discarded, the used cork stoppers will be shredded and reused in a wide range of innovative applications, including footwear and fashion accessories, aerospace components and high-performance insulation, boats and nautical equipment, and applications for construction, architecture and design. Each application makes the most of each of cork's unique properties – lightness, resilience, thermal insulation and natural origin – adapting this versatile raw material to different functions.

The partnership between Amorim Cork and the CMB, one of the world's most prestigious wine competitions, has a long history, dating back to 1994, the first international edition of the competition, and further strengthened in 2006 when the first edition outside Belgium was held in Lisbon. The CMB's Red and White Wine Session and Sweet and Fortified Wine Session will be held in Portugal in 2027, with Amorim Cork once again acting as a partner.

Carlos de Jesus, Amorim Cork's communications director, highlights the importance of this partnership in driving positive change within the sector: "I would like to congratulate the Concours Mondial de Bruxelles on this visionary initiative. Establishing a genuine cork stopper recycling scheme at an international event of this scale and prestige is exactly the kind of leadership we need. This is more than just about recycling: it's a statement about the future of cork and our shared responsibility towards the planet."

# In Pretoria, cork gave voice to Portuguese identity

There was one outstanding element during the celebrations for Portugal Day, Camões Day and the Portuguese Communities Day in Pretoria: cork. As one of the most emblematic elements of Portuguese identity, it also emerged in this context as a symbol of Portugal's capacity for innovation, sustainability and creativity.

In the presence of more than 450 guests, including representatives of the Portuguese and South African governments, members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders and the Portuguese community in general, the Portuguese Embassy in South Africa decided to showcase one of the country's most iconic raw materials, and invited Amorim Cork South Africa to take part in the celebrations.
In partnership with South African designer Laurie Wiid, with whom Corticeira Amorim has a long-standing relationship, the company presented an exhibition dedicated to the multiple uses of cork, showcasing a material that today extends far beyond the cork stopper to find expression in design, architecture and sustainable construction. The lectern used throughout the ceremony, also made of cork, symbolically reinforced this presence.
The Portuguese Ambassador to South Africa, Carlos Costa Neves, highlighted the "magnificent exhibition, which brilliantly illustrates the versatility" of cork.
The Secretary of State for Fisheries and the Sea, Salvador Malheiro, who attended the celebrations on behalf of the Portuguese Government, also highlighted the role of Corticeira Amorim in the Portuguese economy, noting that "Corticeira Amorim is a global symbol of Portuguese innovation and industrial excellence that has an absolute commitment to sustainability".

The minister added that his attendance "pays tribute to the modern, dynamic and forward-looking Portuguese economy". He summed up the significance of cork in a phrase that defined the event: "cork is the essence of Portugal".
Joaquim Sá, managing director of Amorim Cork South Africa, emphasised that "this day is an opportunity to celebrate Portugal's culture, but also the Portuguese people's entrepreneurship and capacity for innovation, both domestically and abroad". He added that "cork is a symbol and a treasure of Portugal, because it sustainably transforms a natural, renewable and regenerative resource into a material with high added value", adding that "every cork stopper carries a little piece of Portugal".
Operating in South Africa for over four decades, Amorim Cork South Africa forges a link between Portuguese cork and South Africa, contributing not only to the preservation of some of the country's finest wines, but also to the promotion of cork's multiple applications in the fields of design, architecture and sustainable construction. Through its participation in the event, in partnership with Laurie Wiid, the company sought to demonstrate, cork's ability to preserve its connection to its origins, whilst inspiring new forms of creativity and innovation worldwide.

"Cork is Portuguese identity."

*Joaquim Sá*
Managing director of Amorim Cork South Africa

# Pure beauty: cork is taking the interior design world by storm

## There is a growing preference for using natural materials in architecture and interior design and cork – an organic material with unique characteristics – is establishing itself as a distinguishing feature.

It's become all too familiar: an increasingly characterless and artificial world. As virtual reality and artificial intelligence are developing at breakneck speed, we are also witnessing a desire to return to the authentic, human, unique and natural. The demand for natural materials and solutions with their own distinct identity is redefining the way we think about and design our living spaces. This trend spans architecture and design, engendering increasingly welcoming and comfortable interiors, with cork – a 100% natural, recyclable and renewable material – establishing itself as a distinctive solution. "We are experiencing a paradigm shift. The return to natural materials is not a passing fad; it is a response to the need to 'unwind' in an increasingly digital and fast-paced world," explains Joana Ferreira, of Amorim Cork Solutions – Flooring. "People have realised that the home is a refuge and that the quality of the indoor environment has a direct impact on our mental and physical health. What is driving this change is the search for authenticity and comfort: we want spaces that 'breathe', that have texture and that convey a sense of calm that only nature can provide." Bringing nature into the home is precisely what is achieved by solutions such as Wicanders' Cork Pure range. Versatile and designed for an integrated approach to interior design, the range can be used on both floors and walls, thereby creating harmonious and inviting spaces, where visual continuity and natural texture play a central role.

© João Tiago Arquitetos

The aesthetic dimension, combined with comfort, lightness and texture, is just one of cork's advantages. Sustainability is another key factor in consumers' choices. "Regulations and growing awareness of environmental impact are making architects and consumers far more discerning. It's no longer enough for a material to be aesthetically pleasing; it must also be sustainable," comments Joana Ferreira. "There is a clear rejection of synthetic materials that offer no guarantees regarding their life cycle or that contribute to indoor pollution. This shift is placing organic materials – such as cork – at the heart of the discussion, since they are not merely safe alternatives; they are valuable assets that ensure the longevity and healthiness of buildings." In a market where differentiation increasingly depends on the combination of form, function and environmental responsibility, Amorim Cork Solutions' mission is to demonstrate that sustainability and aesthetics can go hand in hand. Cork reveals its full identity and natural beauty in flooring that is increasingly sustainable, innovative and centred on the human experience.

# Corticeira Amorim receives the Caixa ESG – Supply Chain award

The third edition of the Caixa Geral de Depósitos Awards once again recognise companies that demonstrate excellence in environmental, social and governance performance.

For the third consecutive year, Corticeira Amorim has been honoured at the Caixa ESG Awards in the Supply Chain category, marking further recognition of the company's best practices in the field of sustainability and governance. In the third edition of the Caixa Geral de Depósitos Awards, 42 Portuguese companies were recognised for their outstanding contribution to a more sustainable and resilient economy, while reinforcing the importance of responsible growth models that are prepared for the challenges of the future.

Corticeira Amorim has thereby been recognised for the way that it integrates ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) criteria into its operations and business strategy, in pursuit of a more resilient future. The award reinforces the group's commitment to innovation and to adopting best practices and sustainable, responsible management models, reflecting the conviction that a greener and fairer future is built day by day, through action.
Spread across three categories – the Caixa ESG Award, the Caixa ESG Transparency and Performance Award, and the Caixa ESG Supply Chain Award – the awards are presented to Portuguese companies. Caixa is responsible for determining the eligible companies, by annually assessing their internally assigned ESG ratings, based on the reports and financial statements submitted at the end of each financial year, as well as the most recent management reports and sustainability reports, taking into account their position within their respective business sector.

# SALTO: cork is conquering space as part of a European consortium

Amorim Cork Solutions is the only Portuguese company within the SALTO consortium, a project funded by the European Commission through Horizon Europe, which brings together large companies, research institutions and SMEs with the aim of making Europe a leader in the sustainable aerospace industry.

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One small step for man, one giant LEAP for cork. This could be the motto for Amorim Cork Solutions' participation in the SALTO project (reuSable strAtegic space Launcher Technologies & Operations), a consortium funded by Horizon Europe, set up with the aim of positioning Europe at the forefront of reusable launch systems.
At the heart of the initiative is Themis, the first full-scale European demonstrator of a reusable launcher, developed by ArianeGroup as part of the European Space Agency's (ESA) Future Launchers Preparatory Programme (FLPP).
The consortium brings together 25 partners from 12 European countries, including major aerospace companies, research institutions and SMEs.
In addition to ArianeGroup and Amorim Cork Solutions, selected for the company's innovative and sustainable approach to thermal protection, the consortium includes MT Aerospace AG, Safran Data Systems, Safran Electronics & Defence, Avio S.p.A., Sabca, Thales Alenia Space Belgium S.A., GTD Sistemas de Información S.A., GMV Aerospace and Defence SA, Deimos Engineering and Systems S.L.U., Sener TAFS SAU, Swedish Space Corporation; research institutions such as the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), CNES, ONERA, IRT Jules Verne and INCAS; and start-ups and SMEs such as ID-Services, Shark Robotics SARL, G.L.Electronic s.r.o, SIA WIT Berry, Réaltra Space Systems Engineering and SpaceForest sp. z o.o.

# Space for sustainability

Cork, a 100% natural material, harvested sustainably from the cork oak tree, is combined with cutting-edge technology to chart a course towards the stars. The challenge was to design a sustainable, high-performance Thermal Protection System (TPS) suitable for modular and reusable configurations. Reusable launch vehicles are subjected to extreme thermal loads during launch and re-entry, and therefore need to be protected by a Thermal Protection System (TPS) that not only withstands these conditions but also allows for rapid recovery between missions.
Capitalising on cork's unique properties in terms of thermal insulation, fire resistance and resistance to high temperatures, Amorim Cork Solutions has developed a bio-based TPS, made from high-performance cork composites and resins. Designed specifically for reusable vehicles such as Themis, this TPS is engineered to withstand extreme heat while maintaining structural integrity under extremely demanding conditions.
To enable rapid recovery, the TPS will be mounted on modular panels developed by iDCONCEPTS, allowing for quick removal and replacement after each mission – a key requirement for reusability, significantly reducing operational costs and the time needed to prepare the launcher for a new mission.
The TPS developed by Amorim Cork Solutions will be tested during the first *hop test* of the Themis reusable launcher demonstrator – a vertical take-off and landing at low altitude, reaching a maximum altitude of 100 metres – scheduled for September 2026 at the Esrange Space Centre in Kiruna, Sweden, operated by the Swedish Space Corporation. This critical moment will generate essential data for more complex flight tests in the future, while also marking an important step on Europe's path towards sustainable and cost-effective space transport.

# Leading the Future

## Sharing. Alignment. Courage. These were the keywords of the Business Update Leadership Summit 2026, which brought together Corticeira Amorim's top management at the Porto Business School in September.

The session began with a presentation by Margarida Pedro, strategic consultant and advisor, on "Leadership with Courage," in which she highlighted three essential characteristics that enable leaders to navigate the current, changing landscape: courage, creativity and curiosity.
The CEOs of the company's various Business Units shared the results from the first half of 2026 and discussed the main challenges and priorities for the coming months. Paulo Américo of Amorim Florestal, Luís Esteves and Christophe Fouquet of Amorim Cork, and João Pedro Azevedo of Amorim Cork Solutions presented the key topics in their respective areas. Corticeira Amorim's Chairman and CEO, António Rios de Amorim, concluded the session, with the provision of a broad overview of the business and the key challenges ahead.
Artificial Intelligence was another key theme in the event's agenda. AI is already shaping Corticeira Amorim's business reality and is facilitating new working methods and decision-taking procedures. Manuela Veloso, an international expert in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, made a presentation on "Humans and AI Agents: A Continual Learning Journey," in which she discussed the evolution of AI agents and the increasingly close relationship between people and technology.

# Our People

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