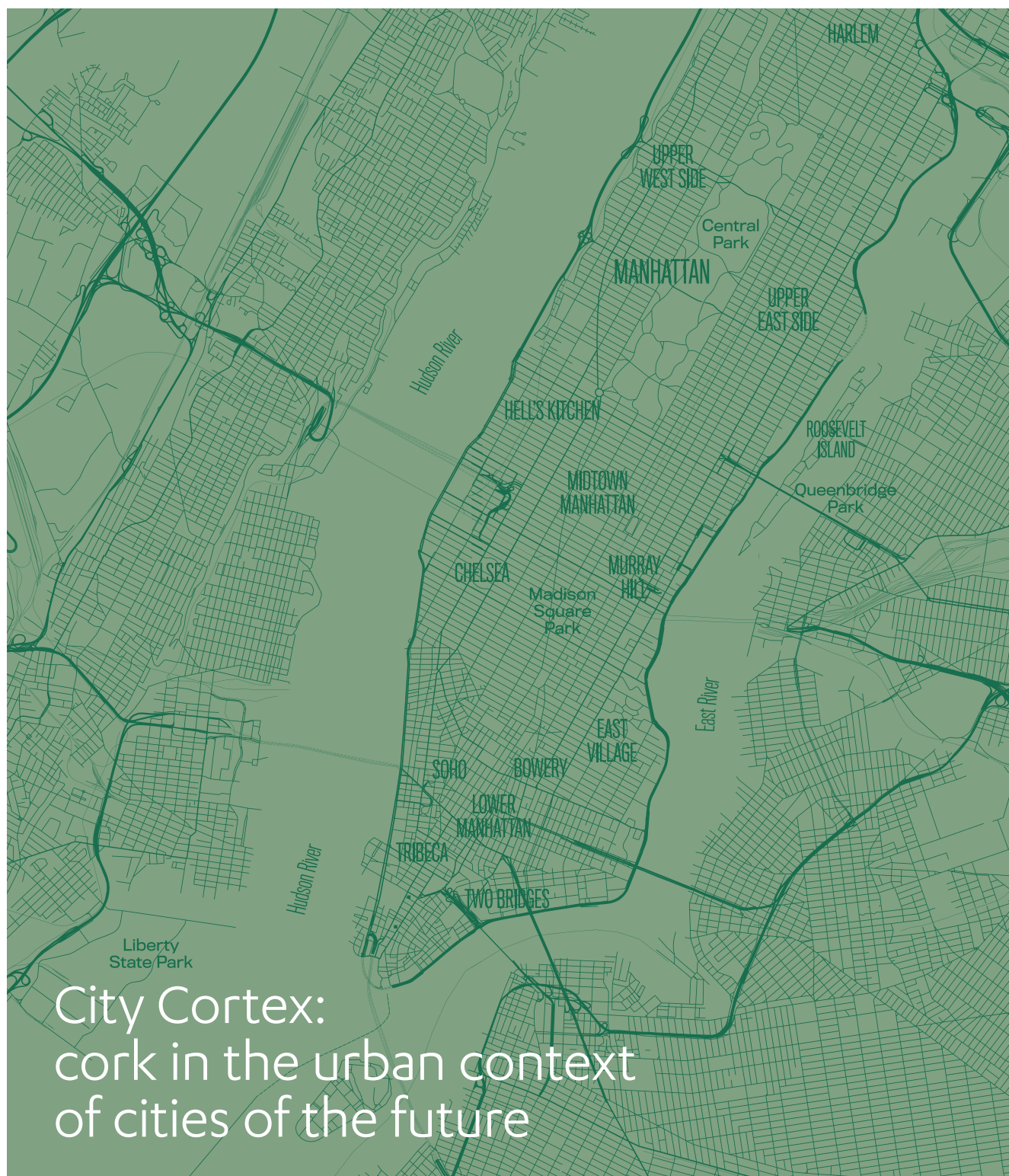




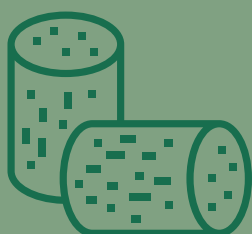
news



**Quercus, Continente
Missão and
Corticeira Amorim
join forces for
recycling and
reforestation
of the Portuguese
territory**

2008

**Launch of the
Green Cork project**



**500
thousand**

**collection bins offered
in the 2019 campaign**

**84
million**

cork stoppers collected



**828
thousand**

trees planted



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editorial



City Cortex: the future is now

The challenges posed by the climate crisis are too urgent to be ignored. The data disclosed by the scientific community is irrefutable and time is now of the essence. That's why it's important to think about available solutions and how to implement them, with determination, confidence and hope.

We launched City Cortex with this objective in mind – to focus on solutions and present innovative proposals that will help us create a better future for everyone. City Cortex is a research programme focused on cork and its sustainability potential for contemporary cities. In the wake of emblematic projects, such as *Materia* and *Metamorphosis*, we are once again working in partnership with *experimentadesign*, which is responsible for curating a programme that stands out due to its bold and disruptive nature.

Five international architecture and design studios – Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Gabriel Calatrava, Leong Leong, Sagmeister & Walsh and Philippe Starck – have been invited to develop original cork-based designs, designed to meet the challenges of 21st century urban contexts. New York City – the metropolis of metropolises – will host the inaugural stage of the programme, including presentation of works in public and semi-public spaces, scheduled for the summer 2020.

We believe that due to cork's characteristics – as a 100% natural, renewable and recyclable material, with unique characteristics and strengths – it is in a strong position to project itself further into the world, expanding its influence as a sustainable and multifaceted solution.

Throughout our business history we have always been guided by the goal of adding value to cork. With City Cortex, we are taking yet another step to broaden the contribution of this unique, natural and sustainable material, whose versatility is capable of surprising some of the brightest minds in the world of contemporary creation.

Best regards,
Cristina Rios de Amorim

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Corticeira Amorim launches City Cortex

Curated by experimentadesign, City Cortex is a research programme focused on cork and its strong sustainability potential for contemporary cities. Based on cork, a 100% natural, sustainable and unique material, five renowned architecture and design studios – Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Gabriel Calatrava, Leong Leong, Sagmeister & Walsh and Philippe Starck – were invited to develop original designs specifically designed to respond to the challenges of 21st century urban contexts. New York City will host the inaugural stage of the programme.



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Cortex means “bark” or “cork” in Latin. In more general terms, it is the tissue that surrounds any plant or tree, protecting it from weather variations. In anatomical terms, cortex refers to the outer layer of an organ or biological structure – wherein perhaps the best-known example is the cerebral cortex.

This intersection of concepts, which on the one hand lead to cork, and on the other hand to the brain, as the seat of creative thinking, is the starting point for City Cortex, an ambitious and innovative programme pioneered by Corticeira Amorim, that aims to expand the possibilities of different applications of cork and spread the potential of this unique raw material, whose versatility and strengths no man-made material has been able to replicate.

Curated by experimentadesign, which has previously developed key projects with Corticeira Amorim in the fields of design and architecture (*Materia and Metamorphosis*), City Cortex investigates the intersection between contemporary urban contexts and cork.

The 21st century city requires a 21st century material. Cork is 100% natural, sustainable, with unmatched characteristics and a virtually infinite spectrum of applications.

From City Cortex’s perspective, the city emerges as a living and dynamic organism that faces many challenges – from mobility to climate change, from comfort to social cohesion, from security to sustainability – and also offers endless possibilities. Cork, by its very nature, can make a valuable contribution to building the sustainable, creative and inclusive cities we all dream of.

Creative immersion

On the basis of contributions from five world-renowned architecture and design studios - Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Gabriel Calatrava, Leong Leong, Sagmeister & Walsh and Philippe Starck – City Cortex will propose original works for New York City's urban space, responding to specific challenges with sustainable solutions. The projects are based on research developed *in situ* into the potential of cork that is produced and transformed by Corticeira Amorim.

Over recent months, the designers have had the opportunity to delve into the universe of cork, discovering its possibilities and observing the entire transformation process of this exceptional raw material, from the cork oak forest (*montado*) to the factory. All the participants visited Corticeira Amorim's facilities, where they had direct experience of cork and gathered precious information, with the chance to discover cork's main characteristics, ranging from thermal and acoustic insulation to elasticity and compressibility, its unambiguously sustainable profile and the diversity of its uses and applications.



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Along with the creation of cork-based works for Manhattan's public and semi-public spaces, City Cortex will also develop historical research into the use of cork in the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries. This research dimension will also consider the commercial ties established between the USA and Portugal, in which Corticeira Amorim has always been involved.

Innovative thinking

During the presentation of the programme in Lisbon, including the presence of the US Ambassador to Portugal, George E. Glass, the essential objectives of City Cortex were presented: to help expand the use of a natural and sustainable material in urban contexts; pave the way towards greater awareness of sustainability issues and development of contemporary urban landscapes; and inspire innovative thinking, marked by ideas and intersections that make a positive and useful contribution to community experiences and our interaction with the natural world.



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Five internationally renowned design and architecture studios and one sustainable material by nature

These are the creators invited to present their vision of cork, exploiting its unlimited potential for contemporary cities.



© Geordie Wood

Diller Scofidio + Renfro: The City as Performance

Founded in 1981 and with its headquarters in New York, Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS + R) is one of the world's leading design studios, with work spanning the fields of architecture, design, artistic installations and multimedia performance. DS + R primarily develops civic and cultural projects, and the studio's work poses challenges to the host cities and institutions. Examples include the transformation of the High Line and The Shed – one of the world's most revolutionary cultural centres – that completely renovated some of Manhattan's most forgotten areas.



© CAL studio

Gabriel Calatrava: Multidisciplinary flexibility

Founder of CAL (Collaborative Architecture Laboratory), that has its head office in New York, Gabriel Calatrava has a degree in engineering and architecture and a thorough knowledge of the city where he lives and works. Engineering and architecture are permanently combined in his work, endowing him with tremendous inventiveness. After working on numerous projects with his father, Santiago Calatrava, he participated in several collaborative projects, dedicated to finding innovative and technically surprising solutions, incorporating new technologies and unexpected formal solutions.



© Leong Leong

Leong Leong: Cultural Impact

Leong Leong – created by the brothers Dominic and Christopher Leong – is an award-winning architecture and design studio based in New York. It represents emerging talent in architecture in the US and focuses on projects that establish new relationships between culture and commerce, the public and private sector, the domestic and monumental. The studio is not interested in a specific design typology, but in the potential to create culturally influential environments and objects that exude new and vibrant energy.



© Sagmeister & Walsh

Sagmeister & Walsh: Irreverence and Identity

Sagmeister & Walsh is the only graphic design studio involved in City Cortex. Stefan Sagmeister and Jessica Walsh are renowned for their controversial and irreverent work, with a unique ability to look at a specific context and create revolutionary and culturally-rooted responses. Specialising in branding, advertising, websites, apps, movies, books, and objects, the studio stands out for its strategic approach, and has collaborated with many different

clients, such as the Rolling Stones, Jay-Z, Guggenheim Museum, Levis, Snapchat, Vitra and the New York Times.



© James Bort

Philippe Starck: Creative intelligence

Inventor, Creator, Architect, Designer, Artistic Director – Philippe Starck is all these things and much more. He is the only creative involved in City Cortex who is not based in New York, despite having designed several projects in the city. His vision will establish a bridge with Europe, in the least predictable manner. Visionary and with a profound sense of humour that has followed him throughout his career, his creations have had a profound influence and impact on the development of contemporary design and architecture.

With an in-depth understanding of contemporary changes, militant enthusiasm, and an avid interest in sustainability, Starck's work imagines new lifestyles and reflects a determination to defend intelligence from utility, and utility from intelligence. This unique and tireless approach has led to creations that demonstrate a concern for environmental issues, resulting in technological innovations that seek ways to safeguard the future of man and nature.



© Ricardo Gonçalves

A journey to the world of cork

Over the past few months, the five studios involved in the project have travelled to Portugal, where they have had first-hand experience of one of nature's most fascinating and sustainable raw materials: cork.

The first studio to visit Corticeira Amorim, to gain an immersive insight into the world of cork, was DS + R, represented by Elizabeth Diller and Benjamin Gilmartin. During their visit in December 2018, they gathered information and became aware of cork's unique characteristics and learned why cork is the natural technology of the future.

Philippe Starck also visited Corticeira Amorim to learn more about this 100% natural material, that he had never previously used in his portfolio. After coming into contact with cork in its many different aspects and applications – from latest generation cork stoppers to large infrastructures, from everyday objects to space rockets – Starck seemed to be teeming with ideas for new applications.

Dominic Leong and Jessie Baxa, from Leong Leong studio, and Stefan Sagmeister, ventured into the cork oak forest in a field trip that allowed them to see the very first stage of the cork production process: the majestic cork tree and the extraction of the raw material. At Corticeira Amorim's premises in Coruche, they were able to observe the initial stage of the cork transformation process. From Nature to Industry, they ended their visit in Mozelos, where they discovered the industry's major technological component, from the state-of-the-art manufacturing process to strict quality control, and discovered cork's endless applications, from flooring to insulation, and also including design, architecture, sport and fashion.

Cork House: uma casa de cortiça

Finalist of the prestigious *Stirling Prize* and winner of *RIBA's 2019 Stephen Lawrence Prize*, the Cork House project was built with expanded agglomerated cork supplied by Amorim Isolamentos.



Simplicity and sustainability were the concepts that inspired the mentors of this idea: Matthew Barnett Howland, Dido Milne and Oliver Wilton, of the Bartlett School of Architecture. Built in Berkshire, UK, Cork House aims to provide an innovative solution to the inherent complexities associated to building modern homes. It was built almost entirely from a single natural, sustainable and renewable material: cork.

The design is truly ground-breaking, with monolithic walls and ceilings supported by corbels, made of solid, sturdy cork. Designed as a kit, its components are prefabricated off-site and assembled by hand, without mortar or glue. The 1268 expanded cork agglomerate blocks can therefore be reused, recycled or returned to the biosphere at the end of the building's life.

Once completed, Cork House is carbon-negative, which, in addition to its low impact construction method, surely must have caught the attention of the jury of the Stephen Lawrence Prize, an award organised by RIBA (Royal College of British Architects) that distinguishes emerging and experimental architecture, with projects costing less than £1 million.

"Cork House is a unique combination of ancient building methods and state-of-the-art technical research to produce a highly innovative, low carbon solution with a wide range of applications, from large scale housing to emergency shelters," stated Marco Goldschmied, founder of the Stephen Lawrence Prize.

Cork House, which was also one of the 9 finalists of the RIBA Stirling Prize, Britain's foremost architectural award, uses an updated version of an innovative building system jointly developed, designed and tested by MPH Architects, The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, University of Bath, Corticeira Amorim and Ty-Mawr, with Arup and BR as subcontractors.

The research was partially funded by Innovate UK and EPSRC under the 2015 Building Whole Life Performance competition. The R&D process included sophisticated laboratory testing to assess structural performance and rain and fire penetration, with two prototypes designed to test the actual performance of the building system.





Corticeira Amorim, Quercus and Missão Continente join forces in another cork recycling campaign

Launched on September 16, World Ozone Day, the campaign “Cork stoppers that sprout leaves” is part of the Green Cork project, which has collected 84 million cork stoppers since 2008 and has made it possible to plant 828,000 autochthonous trees from the Portuguese forest, including the cork oak tree.

With the objective of encouraging cork recycling and contributing to reforestation in Portugal, Corticeira Amorim launched another edition of the Cork Stoppers recycling campaign, and distributed a total of 500,000 “rolhinhos” – small portable collection bins for cork stoppers – to the customers of Continente stores.

This awareness campaign is part of the Green Cork project, an initiative created in 2008 by Quercus in partnership with the Missão Continente and Corticeira Amorim, which has already collected around 84 million corks. The objective is to encourage Portuguese families to recycle cork stoppers and raise public awareness of the environmental advantages of cork products, while supporting an ecosystem that has unique characteristics.

The cork oak forest contributes to the conservation of biodiversity and the survival of many indigenous species, including some endangered species. It is also equally important in terms of CO₂ retention, regulation of the water cycle and water retention, and prevention of desertification and depopulation of rural areas.

Recycling, in addition to making it possible to reuse cork in new products, extends its life cycle and its associated environmental benefits, in particular its ability to retain CO₂. Although never used to make new cork stoppers, recycled stoppers are transformed into cork granules, with numerous applications, ranging from the automotive to aerospace industries, fashion, sport, design and architecture, among many others.





New materials, new processes, more circular economy

Based on the maxim that “nothing is wasted, everything is valued”, the principles of the circular economy have been applied at Amorim Cork Composites ever since the company was founded, given that it was born with the goal of giving new life to surplus cork from the cork stopper production industry.

Reinforcing this proposal of ecological value, based on a circularity model, new product ranges are constantly being updated, incorporating surplus raw material

from other industries, such as footwear, cars, sports or upholstery production, which would otherwise have been sent to a landfill. These materials make it possible to develop new cork composites, in line with the responsibility of reusing and saving natural resources, while generating added value for the business.

The incorporation of non-cork raw materials, and promoting industrial symbioses with other companies, allows us to create new products and new trends, and thereby increase the company's competitiveness, differentiate our offer and ensure that cork remains a distinctive core raw material.

We have a new strategy based on investment in new areas and new technological processes. Examples include the creation of the i.cork factory, a pilot innovation factory, with a bigger commitment in terms of procurement of raw materials and the installation of new granulating and agglomeration lines.

At the i.cork factory, opportunities for incorporating materials from the circular economy are explored daily. The primary mission is to design new materials, so as to continuously respond to the needs of the different business areas in which the company operates, and test and explore the application of technologies that haven't yet been industrialised in the sector.

Procurement has increased the unit's network of suppliers, ensuring a constant supply, in function of market needs. In operation since the end of 2018, the new granulating line now makes it possible to granulate low density foams and increases the granulating capacity of previously granulated raw materials, such as PUR and EVA.

The new agglomeration line is mainly focused on the production of cork composites with raw materials sourced from the circular economy, such as PUR and EVA, among others.

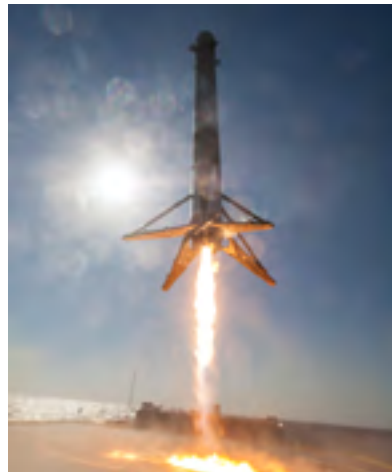


Given current market trends, Amorim Cork Composites aims to stand at the forefront in terms of creating value from recycled materials, and innovating in terms of product, process and marketing strategy.

This is expected to leverage Amorim Cork Composites' resources, know-how and production processes, and consciously and responsibly manage the valuable raw material of cork.

At i.cork factory, a pilot innovation factory, opportunities for incorporating materials from the circular economy are explored daily.

The main mission is to design new materials to respond continuously to the needs of the different business areas in which the company operates, as well as to test and explore the application of technologies that haven't yet been industrialised in the sector.



Cork integrated within a reusable space vehicle programme

Amorim Cork Composites' participation in the RETALT project involves the development of cork thermal protection solutions for reusable launchers.

The development of reusable vehicles is one of the aerospace industry's biggest trends. The space shuttle – considered for many years to be a state-of-the-art vehicle – required expensive maintenance costs. However, recent developments, primarily led by US companies such as Blue Origin and SpaceX, point towards a new direction.

RETALT – Retro Propulsion Assisted Landing Technologies – a project which includes Amorim Cork Composites has been launched in this context and aims to reduce

the cost of the next generation of launchers and transport systems, by using new technologies that facilitate their re-use.

The project, which brings together European industry and research, involves some of the biggest European aerospace agents and will be directly supported by the European Union. In addition to Amorim Cork Composites, the RETALT consortium includes DLR (Germany), CFS Engineering (Switzerland), Elecnor Deimos (Spain), MT Aerospace (Germany) and Almatech (Switzerland).

Amorim Cork Composites' participation in the project will support the development of simulation processes and the structural design and production of thermal protection components. The company's mission includes the creation of an innovative cork-based solution which may be applicable to the launcher's fairing on site, complementing the existing cork-based TPS –Thermal Protection System. In this context, the development of solutions to cover different systems is planned, producing various small-scale prototypes.

"Retro-propulsion is a practice in the US. However, the phenomenon and the physics behind technology is not fully studied. With high quality information from wind tunnel tests and ground prototypes combined with numerical simulations, we will be able to understand the details and take a big step in reusing these devices in Europe. The know-how for the rapid application of reuse of launchers in Europe can only come from a joint effort of research and industry", said RETALT's coordinator, prof. Ali Gülhan (DLR).



Wicanders flooring in Sobreiras Country Hotel



Cork was the obvious choice for a hotel in the heart of the Alentejo region, that pays tribute to nature and Portugal's national tree: the cork oak. The FAT – Future Architecture Thinking architecture studio project incorporates 700 m² of Wicanders flooring, a sustainable solution in perfect harmony with nature.

Located in the heart of the Alentejan coast, near Grândola, Sobreiras Country Hotel is perfectly integrated into the surrounding landscape. The name, a feminine version of the Portuguese word for the cork oak tree – the *sobreiro* – is a clear allusion to the cork tree and the sustainable nature of the hotel project, which proposes a new simple yet luxury offer, with minimal environmental impact.

The project, designed by the British architectural firm FAT, establishes a permanent dialogue between the interior and exterior, and a perfect balance between privacy, comfort and relaxation. Nature surrounds the built space, and is even transported indoors, notably through the choice of Wicanders flooring from the Cork Pure range, with the "Originals Character" visual.

The flooring has been installed in all private and communal areas, with a total surface area of more than 700m², bringing nature literally indoors, with all the beauty of cork's identity.

This sustainable solution combines modern design with cork's unrivalled characteristics in terms of thermal and acoustic comfort. Especially in the Alentejo, where the summers are very hot and the winters cold, and especially in a hotel where privacy and a quiet and relaxing atmosphere are essential, Wicanders has proven to be the best solution.

Cork-based wall and floor coverings are chosen for the premises of the Colégio Mayor Colombiano

Cork has made a key contribution to the Colégio Mayor Colombiano, in Madrid – providing the ideal environment for students' cultural, scientific, sports and social education.

The architect Silka Barrio, responsible for the interior design project, is passionate about cork and so this material was an obvious choice for her. 250 m² of Wicanders cork-based flooring, Originals Shell, Resist + range and 50 m of the same visuals were applied to the walls. Silka Barrio chose cork because it is a natural and sustainable material and has unique thermal and acoustic properties, endowing a feeling of comfort to any space, and contributing to the well-being of students and teachers.

Located in the campus of Madrid's Complutense University, Colégio Mayor Colombiano is a university residence, which was built in the context of the bilateral cultural agreement signed in 1952 between the governments of Colombia and Spain.

The college offers an ideal residence and integration space for young Colombians studying in Spain. The Colégio Mayor Colombiano Miguel Antonio Caro aims to provide students with a residence and also promote cultural, scientific and sports training, allied to social activities.





Wicanders launches Hydrocork 2.0 – an even more sustainable solution

Following the successful launch of Hydrocork in 2015, Wicanders continues to focus on this revolutionary product, and has now released version 2.0.

Hydrocork's well-known features, such as low thickness, ease of installation thanks to its revolutionary PressFit (noiseless and dust-free) locking system and the fact that it is waterproof, have made this product the biggest-selling product in Wicanders' history.

The brand recently launched Hydrocork 2.0, which has some upgrades that make the product even more competitive. In line with the company's environmental concerns, and in favour of creating an increasingly sustainable solution in terms of its composition, Hydrocork 2.0 has increased the amount of recycled materials used in the core of the flooring solution.

The Hydrocork Wood Look Collection is also available in 1225x195x6mm dimension for all 27 visuals.

Cork and fashion combined in the new collection from Katty Xiomara

The designer from Porto chose cork – a sustainable material with a rich identity – for After Now, her new eco-design collection, presented at Paris Fashion Week.

From Paris to Porto, fashion designer Katty Xiomara has taken cork to the catwalks to present her brand new After Now collection. A tribute to the impermanence and fluidity of life, where everything evolves in a circular movement, without a beginning or end, the collection was launched in a fashion parade at the Hotel d'Evreux, in the heart of one of Paris's most beautiful squares, the Place Vendôme.

Cork, supplied by Amorim Cork Composites, was used on the floor of this classic building: "The room's atmosphere was quite classic and therefore the iron structure combined with the cork floor had a contrasting effect that worked very well.

The reactions were very positive and the use of cork didn't go unnoticed, it established an immediate connection with real concerns about the sustainability of our choices," the designer explained.

In addition to setting the stage for the fashion parade, cork has been incorporated into several items designed by Xiomara, especially in the details and textures, thereby creating a surprising effect. "This collection, more than any other, has a strong concept of eco-design, and therefore the use of cork makes perfect sense. In fact we made some items with fabrics themselves with cork finishes and some straw accessories. The introduction of these natural elements is important and makes sense of all our efforts to highlight local manufacturing", she added.

Following Paris, After Now was presented in Porto, and cork once again went under the camera flashes!



Cork in the Serralves Treetop Walk

A walk among the trees to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Serralves Foundation, while drawing attention to the importance of biodiversity and environmental education. The new Treetop Walk opened to the public in September. Cork is featured, with a series of benches designed to contemplate nature on a sustainable basis.

In the year of its 30th anniversary, the Serralves Foundation has opened a Treetop Walk which provides visitors with an impressive experience of observing and studying the fauna and flora of Serralves.

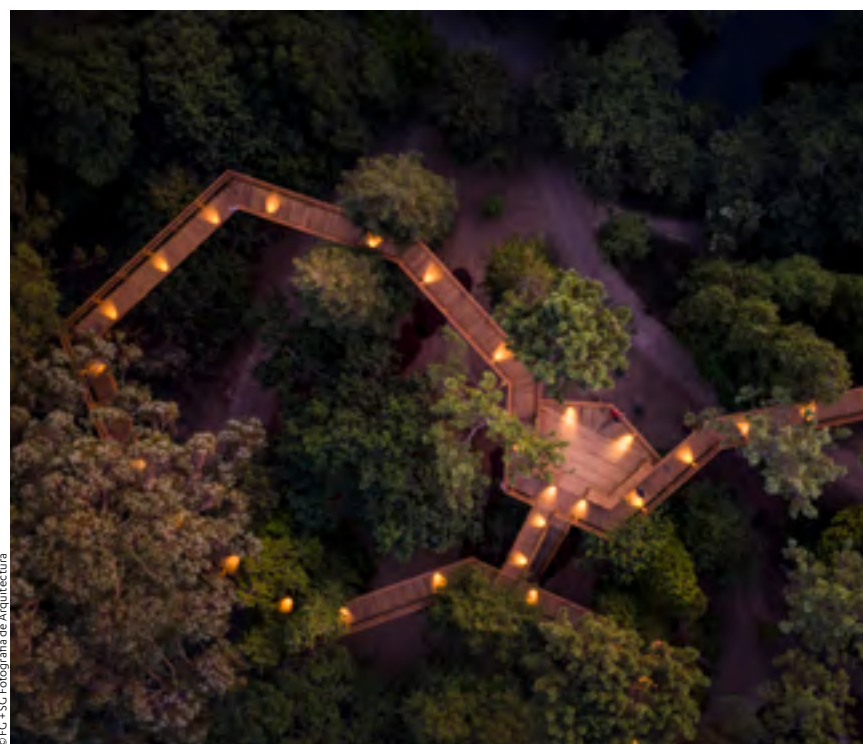
The walkway is about 250 meters long and between 1.5 to 15 metres above the ground. It further enhances Serralves' educational activities related to environmental sustainability and protection of biodiversity.

The project – designed by the architect Carlos Castanheira in collaboration with the architect Álvaro Siza – will have a major impact on Serralves' education for environmental conservation and protection of biodiversity, and will foster new opportunities to connect with science.



© FG + SG Fotografia de Arquitectura

As a 100% natural, sustainable and recyclable material, cork was chosen for the furniture that complements the wooden structure. Corticeira Amorim has developed, through Amorim Cork Composites, a set of cork-based padded benches (made from expanded cork agglomerate). Soft to the touch, using an organic, recyclable and reusable material, these comfortable cork benches are perfectly in tune with the surrounding environment. They allow visitors to rest and enjoy nature in the most sustainable way, enjoying incredible and unexpected views over this iconic park in Porto.



© FG + SG Fotografia de Arquitectura





Portuguese Cork in William Kentridge's historical retrospective in South Africa

The Zeitz MOCAA Museum is hosting the biggest-ever exhibition dedicated to South Africa's most important living artist, William Kentridge. Cork is used in over 1200m² of the exhibition space, offering the perfect backdrop for an artistic and sensory experience.

Entitled "Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings To Work" the exhibition dedicated to the work of William Kentridge, South Africa's most important living artist, brings together works produced between 1976 and 2019, and spans three floors of Zeitz MOCAA in Cape Town.

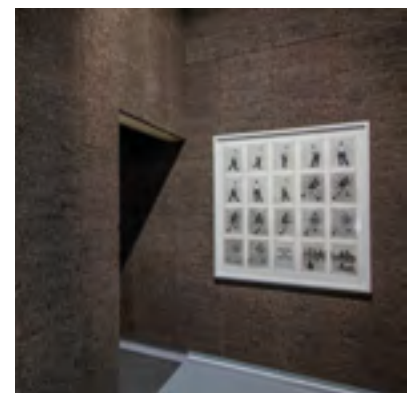
The entire exhibition route features cork, and while visitors' sight and hearing is stimulated by Kentridge's works – including dozens of drawings, objects, sound installations and videos – the characteristic smell of cork invades the space, creating a distinctive sensory experience.

About 1200 m² of compact cork insulation, installed by Amorim Cork South Africa, was primarily chosen because of the acoustic insulation provided by cork, which makes it possible to create acoustic isolation in the areas that screen the artist's videos, which are renowned for their energy and the vibrant way that they incorporate different sounds.

In addition to absorbing sound and creating a unique ambience, the cork panels also serve as a backdrop for Kentridge's beautiful designs.

Amorim Cork South Africa's team worked closely with Zeitz MOCAA to respond to the challenge of creating the best possible environment for Kentridge's works: "We had several preparatory meetings to choose the best cork solution and determine the properties of cork that would be best suited to the exhibition's logistical requirements. After visiting the exhibition, it is particularly gratifying to see how the cork walls complement the space, giving it a warm, natural and dense look, while fulfilling its soundproofing function", says Joaquim Sá, director of Amorim Cork South Africa.

The exhibition, which runs until March 23, 2020, includes drawings, stop-frame animation, video, sculpture, tapestry and large-scale installations. The title "Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings To Work" is an allusion to Kentridge's working method, and the fact that drawing lies at the heart of his artistic practice. It is also a reference to the impact of individual actions on the course of history, and vice versa.



Cork in sport: sustainable surfaces

Use of cork in sports surfaces is becoming increasingly popular. This kind of cutting-edge solution offers a high-performance sustainable alternative that combats microplastics, brings nature back to the pitch and ensuring athletes' safety and performance.



Cork is used extensively as an infill in synthetic turf pitches. It is an extremely favourable solution due to cork's numerous properties, such as low density (insulation properties with low heat absorption when exposed to light), high elasticity, high resistance and low wear and tear, high fire resistance, an attractive life cycle assessment, absence of environmental toxicity and a neutral odour.

But the system's excellent performance is not limited to the choice of the infill material or turf type. It literally depends on the shock pad located beneath the pitch's surface. Amorim Cork Composites' solutions, made from cork and recycled materials, ensure uniform shock absorption, with reduced strength of impact, higher elasticity and other damping properties over the product's life.

Easy to install and with minimal environmental impact, cork shock pads offer long lasting performance and excellent drainage.

In order to learn more about these types of solutions, the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, João Paulo Rebelo, accompanied by Vitor Dias, the Northern Regional Director of the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth (IPDJ), recently visited Amorim Cork Composites' premises.

During the visit, he gained extensive knowledge of the applications of cork in sports surfaces, and cork's potential as a broad and cutting-edge solution in combatting microplastics in synthetic turf and playgrounds.



NDtech Sparkling wins Innovation Award

The first 2-disc cork stopper for sparkling wines that delivers non-detectable TCA performance received an SIMEI's Innovation Challenge award.

Launched earlier this year, the revolutionary NDtech Sparkling stopper won the 2019 innovation award at the prestigious SIMEI trade show in Milan in November – one of the most important technology events for the wine and bottling industry.

The aim of the Innovation Challenge is to promote and disseminate the best technological innovations presented at SIMEI. NDtech Sparkling – which extends the successful application of NDtech technology to sparkling wine cork stoppers – received the highest distinction.

The innovation prize was launched 10 years ago, but presented new rules in this edition. The finalists are now shortlisted by an international technical-scientific committee and then submitted for final evaluation.

Combining sustainability, design and an unprecedented level of quality control – each sparkling wine stopper is individually analysed – NDtech Sparkling represents the perfect symbiosis between nature and technology.

The cork stopper business unit reviews the year and prepares new challenges

More than 200 employees, from 12 countries, who work in Corticeira Amorim's cork business unit, gathered for another annual meeting. This is an opportunity to take stock of the year and prepare for the challenges ahead.

The holographic welcome sign at the event's reception set the tone for innovation in this year's Global Meeting, held at the António Cupertino de Miranda Foundation, in Porto.

The day began with a challenging annual review, that provides the basis for looking ahead. After the 50% acquisition of Vinolok last July, this was the time to welcome new team members.

One of the central themes was research & Development, a crucial factor in a highly competitive industry. The presentations addressed the biggest and most important technological upgrades of current production processes and products, in the context of huge investments to augment quality made by the company.

The Global Meeting – attended by employees from five continents – was also the occasion to forecast market developments over the next 12 months and share the broad strategic guidelines for the next three years.



Amorim Revestimentos holds its annual international meeting

"Good to Great" was the motto for the international meeting of Amorim Revestimentos' sales team, held in October in the António Cupertino de Miranda Foundation, in Porto.

More than 150 employees from around the world gathered to prepare for 2020, in order to ensure continuous improvement in all areas of the company. The event focused on four core themes, representing different levels of the company's activity: customers, people, society and company.

The morning sessions focused on the launch of new products designed to respond to industry trends and consumer needs. There was also discussion of the importance of clear communication of brand values, both in physical and online retail outlets, as an essential support basis for commercial strategies.

Sustainability was one of the highlighted themes, and different actions were shared in the framework of the SEED (Social, Economic and Environmental Development) programme, to ensure that the company is even more sustainable from 2020 onwards.

Amorim Revestimentos' international meeting also offered the opportunity to distinguish the employees who have best represented the company's vision and values over the year.



ACC Global Meeting 2019 – Powering Strategic Growth

At the annual Amorim Cork Composites meeting, more than 100 employees from all areas of the company took stock of the year and looked ahead to the future, focusing on the need for differentiation.

Strategically growing, with a commitment to differentiated products, because of the company's unique DNA, is the path that Amorim Cork Composites has been building and which it intends to reinforce in the future.

Differentiation, which was the focus of the ACC Global Meeting 2019 – Powering Strategic Growth, results from the combination of the company's core competencies, its raw materials and technologies and their application in different segments.

More than 100 employees from various parts of the world met on October 16 in the Alfândega do Porto building.

The common theme underlying the presentations of results, strategy, product and innovation was the importance of continuing to generate a unique value proposition that will enable the company to grow strategically, increasingly globally aligned, and with a competitive advantage in the market.



International distributors promote the value of cork

Major wine distributors in the United States, the United Kingdom and France are committed to disseminating and promoting cork as a 100% sustainable and high-quality solution.



Cork is increasingly being chosen by major retailers from around the world, who are accompanying the preference of consumers for this solution, developing dissemination and promotional initiatives of a stopper that offers unique sustainability and quality credentials.

In the United States, Fairways Wines & Spirits – one of the leading US wine distributors – recently implemented a cork education campaign in its shops in New York City that encourages consumers to learn more about this exceptional material. This two-month campaign included an initiative to collect used cork stoppers, as part of the ReCork recycling programme in the United States.

In the United Kingdom, Berry Bros. & Rudd, the country's oldest wine merchant, has combined tradition and innovation by becoming the first British retailer to sell wines sealed with the revolutionary Helix stopper.

In France, Auchan recently launched an ambitious cork stopper collection and recycling campaign, involving 641 supermarkets across the country. The group has also announced its plans that all Auchan-branded wines will use cork stoppers over the medium term, reaffirming a clear commitment to a 100% natural and high-quality product, that is preferred and valued by consumers from all over the world.

Portugal leads sustainability in the wine world, according to Fortune magazine

An article recently published in the prestigious Fortune magazine places Portugal at the forefront of sustainability in the wine industry. And cork is playing a major role.

“Winemakers are constantly facing new opponents in the vineyard – such as hailstorms, heat waves and pest pressure – which are unpredictable and destructive. Several regions seek to know how they can mitigate these issues, but one country in particular emerges as the leader in terms of sustainability: Portugal”.

The Fortune magazine’s journalist assertively describes Portugal’s role in leading sustainability initiatives in the wine industry, which is essential to addressing the impact of climate change.

The article focuses primarily on the Climate Change Leadership summit, and the commitment made by the signatories to the Porto Protocol – which include Corticeira Amorim – to improve their methodology and adopt sustainable practices that can mitigate the effects of climate change on a particularly vulnerable industry, and create a better future for everyone.

The first two editions of the Climate Change Leadership have featured two keynote speakers - Barack Obama in 2018 and Al Gore in 2019. The initiative aims to focus on finding solutions to the climate crisis. Corticeira Amorim, as the world’s largest producer and supplier of cork stoppers, has a key role to play in this context. The adoption of good practices at all levels of the production chain and a focus on the circular economy are just two examples of how the company assumes this leading role.

“Cork stopper producers are changing their practices to protect the environment” states Fortune magazine, “Amorim, one of the world’s leading cork producers, obtained FSC certification in 2005, thereby guaranteeing the traceability of cork and ensuring that the raw material comes from a sustainably managed forest. In the factory, no cork is wasted. Cork that is not suitable for making corks (...) is converted into biomass, capable of meeting 70% of the company’s energy needs. ”





Boschendal Museum Class wins the 18th edition of the Amorim Cap Classique Challenge

The competition created in 2002 by Amorim South Africa provides an annual award to the best Cap Classique sparkling wines.

A Museum Class Cap Classique from Boschendal, one of the most famous wine producers in South Africa's Franschhoek region, was crowned overall winner at the 2019 Amorim Cap Classique Challenge. There was a record level of participation in 2019, with 134 wines in the competition, which has been held since 2002. It is the only competition exclusively aimed at the famous Cap Classique wines, considered to be South Africa's finest sparkling wines.

First prize was awarded to Boschendal's Jean le Long Prestige Cuvée 2008, made entirely from Chardonnay grapes grown in the region's high-altitude vineyards. This is the first time a Museum Class wine has won the competition. Museum Class wines are eight years old or older that haven't yet been submitted to the competition.

Heidi Duminy, Cape Wine Master and chair of the panel of judges says, "We are delighted that the top wines in this class now qualify for the overall trophy. During this year's judging the class really showed exceptionally well, proving that time on the lees does play a very significant role in search of the ultimate expression of quality and character."

In the category for Brut Cap Classique, Pongrácz Desiderius 2011 was awarded the class winner trophy. Now under Oude Libertas Vineyards, Pongrácz Desiderius has been a regular winner in this competition over the past years. Colmant Blanc de Blancs, a non-vintage wine from the eponymous Franschhoek producer, took the Blanc de Blancs Trophy, with the Steenberg Pinot Noir Rosé MCC winning the Rosé category.

Since last year the competition has included the growing category of Demi-Sec Cap Classiques, and this year saw Simonsig Kaapse Vonkel Satin Nectar Rosé 2017 as the first wine to win a trophy in this category.





Recorking of rare wines with support from Amorim

In early September, a team from Amorim Cork South Africa took part in a complex and delicate recorking of a set of rare Tabernacle wines, ensuring that they were in top condition before being auctioned.

Bringing new life to great wines is the goal of any recorking operation. It is a meticulous exercise that requires equal doses of delicacy and precision, which only great wine and cork specialists are capable of.

This was the challenge presented to Amorim Cork South Africa's team of professionals who, in early September, took part in the recorking of a set of vintage wines from Tabernacle, South Africa's most iconic wine producer. After receiving new top-quality corks from Amorim, the collector's wines gained a new lease of life, while also increasing their value.



The delicate recorking operation was designed to prepare the wines for a very special event, the exclusive Cape Fine & Rare Wine Auction, held on October 18-19 at the Rupert Museum in Stellenbosch.

The certified process was conducted by Libertas Vineyard Estates in partnership with Corticeira Amorim, the world's biggest producer of cork stoppers. "This process increases the value of these investment wines because it offers the buyer unbeatable and certified quality. Throughout the process a number of tests are conducted to ensure that these mature wines are still in top condition", explained the auctioneer.

The delicate and demanding recorking operation was overseen by Joaquim Sá, director of Amorim Cork South Africa, with expert advice from Michael Fridjhon and the sommelier Jean-Vincent Ridon.



Top Series presents amazing news in Luxe Monaco Pack

At the 32nd edition of Luxe Pack Monaco, the world's most important creative packaging event, Amorim Top Series presented its most recent proposals, marked by innovation and sustainability.

All eyes in the packaging universe were fixed on Monaco, as exhibitors from around the world discussed the latest trends and launched new products, based on design, innovation and sustainable development.

Amorim Top Series once again attended this leading event, and presented three major new innovations: Sense Tops, Ambiance Series and Evolutive Series. The three new ranges are highly distinct, but share the same unexpected and innovative spirit – intended to surprise consumers by activating their senses and stimulating their desire for discovery.

Sense Tops are made of ceramic, and exude delicious and suggestive aromas. Ambiance stoppers incorporate an LED lamp that lights up remotely or by twisting the cork stopper, and the Evolutive Series uses innovative thermo-colour inks that change with temperature.

Consumers around the world prefer cork

A new independent study published in the United States has confirmed consumers' preference for cork stoppers and in France, a Nielsen study has confirmed the superior performance of cork-sealed wines.

It is no secret that the cork is perceived worldwide as a sign of quality, inseparable from a good wine, but whenever a new study confirms this fact, confidence is reinforced. In recent years, several market studies conducted in various countries, from England to France, from China to Italy, from Germany to the United States, have revealed how using cork closures influences the perception of the quality of wine and its intrinsic quality.

Now, a new independent study, published in the International Journal of Hospitality Management in the United States, confirms consumers' preference for cork in the world's largest wine market. In a blind wine tasting, that involved 310 participants and aimed at comparing two wines, consumers gave a score of 10 to 13 points higher in appearance, taste, aroma and overall quality to a wine that they thought was sealed with a cork stopper, although it was exactly the same wine.

On the other side of the Atlantic, in France, a Nielsen study, produced for the Professionnels du Liège, confirmed the dominance of cork-sealed wines in the French market in terms of value and volume, and underlined the added value that cork brings to wines, in particular in the Premium and Super Premium categories.

The study, which focused on wines distributed in French supermarkets and hypermarkets over one year (March 2017 - March 2018), with average prices between € 5 and € 15 concluded that wines sealed with cork stoppers represent 86.3 % of sales in value, with an even more overwhelming share – 98.5% – in the case of red wine. This data explains the fact that several French retail chains are increasingly distributing cork-sealed wines as a guarantee of quality and sustainability.





Corticeira Amorim attended the annual meeting of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development

António Rios de Amorim was one of the speakers in the session, “Disrupt or be disrupted: fostering a culture of innovation”, where he emphasised the transformative role of innovation in achieving sustainable development.

Between October 14 and 17, the annual World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) meeting was held in Lisbon, where more than 500 executives and sustainability professionals were reminded of the urgency of moving from goals to action in order to achieve sustainable development.

In the “Disrupt or be disrupted: fostering a culture of innovation” session, António Rios de Amorim, chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim, joined the discussion on technology and innovation and explained how his company is transforming its production systems. Corticeira Amorim is a prime example of how to achieve the unexpected in the field of sustainable development, through its business activity based

on cork – a 100% natural, renewable, reusable and recyclable raw material, that is cyclically extracted from the tree without damaging it, and which promotes economic and social sustainability in areas in risk of desertification, which favours the preservation of one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots (the cork oak forest) delivering invaluable environmental benefits, such as carbon sequestration, and with countless possible applications, thanks to technology.



“A new life begins when innovation is incorporated into the business,” explained António Rios de Amorim, who provided several examples which illustrate how, over almost 150 years of history, Corticeira Amorim has reinvented this unique raw material, adding value in every new project and taking it to hitherto unimaginable levels.

Over recent years, the group has made major investments in research, development and innovation. As a result, it has a portfolio of high value-added products and solutions, anticipating market trends and exceeding the expectations of some of the world’s most demanding industries. It produces cork stoppers used in the finest wines, as well as the most unlikely everyday objects, sporting goods, oil absorbers and organic solvents, world-class construction projects, state-of-the-art road and rail projects and even spacecraft.

For the brightest creative minds in the fields of architecture and design, cork’s properties, as well as its sensory qualities, are a challenge that opens up a range of endless potential for cork, while remaining true to nature.

“A new life begins when innovation is incorporated into the business”

António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim

“Sustainability is now a black and white issue: Either we, as companies, lead the way, or we will all fail”

Peter Bakker, President and CEO of WBCSD

Quinta Nova launches Aeternus, a wine named after Américo Amorim

A rare wine of great personality, just like the man who it is named after. A tribute to the career and memory of a remarkable man. The official launch of AETERNUS marks the celebration of 20 years of the Amorim family in the wine business.



Américo Amorim fell in love with the Douro, the centuries-old terraced vineyards and the kilometres of schist walls that have enriched the region over time. When he saw the beauty of Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo he soon realised that he could fulfil an ancient dream. In 1999 he acquired the property, officially marking the Amorim family's entry into the production business of high-quality wines.

Exactly 20 years later, the project is a world-class reference. Last year, the Amorim family purchased the Quinta de Taboadella, in the Dão region, and are now operating in two classic wine regions of tremendous potential and future. The official release of the wine is scheduled for 2020.

As the forerunner of the project, Américo Amorim is now honoured with a wine made from the memorable 2017 vintage, the year in which he died. AETERNUS uses grapes from the Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo's finest centenary vineyard, planted on solid schist rocks over 2.5 hectares, with an average yield of only 0.4 kg per plant.

The result is the faithful expression of the region's distinguished terroir, combining the ruggedness of indigenous castes with human perseverance, in an affirmation of the Douro's classic profile, the sophistication of its unique character and its imminent longevity – as well as the remarkable history and life of the man who inspired this wine. The exclusivity of this wine is also reflected in its limited production – only 3,566,000 bottles will be sold worldwide.

The launch of AETERNUS 2017 has also been marked by an impressive score of 94-96 points attributed by international critic Mark Squires (Robert Parker) confirming the wine's "great personality and potential".