



AMORIM

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Amorim Group news

ProfileCORK Corticeira Amorim-Indústria launches new, innovative acoustic underflooring



The new acoustic underflooring ProfileCORK is just about to be launched by Corticeira Amorim-Indústria. This is an underflooring with a wavy surface, which significantly improves impact noise insulation and allows air to flow between the flooring and screed mortar.

(page 3)

Another Amorim Unit obtains FSC - Forest Stewardship Council

It was recently Portocork Industrial Unit's turn to obtain FSC certification, following in the footsteps of Coruche Industrial Unit.

(page 4)

Letter news

Américo Amorim appointed Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Hungary in Portugal



Américo Amorim during the appointment ceremony

Américo Amorim was recently appointed Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Hungary in Portugal

The appointment is in recognition of the value of Américo Amorim, who has been Honorary Consul since 7 March 1990. The decision to award the honorary post was made by the Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister, Kinga Göncz, based on the proposal made by the Hungarian Ambassador in Portugal, Attila Gecse. The credentials award ceremony was held in the embassy of the Republic of Hungary, on 20 July. The ceremony was attended by a number of other ambassadors to Portugal.

Américo Amorim received from the Hungarian Ambassador the Charter issued by the Hungarian Foreign Minister appointing him to the position, and the Portuguese Exequatur, thereby becoming the first ever Portuguese Honorary Consul General to have been appointed.

Editorial

Now that the summer holidays have ended it is time to bring you the year's third issue of the Amorim Newsletter.

The most significant piece of news is the appointment of Américo Amorim as the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Hungary in Portugal.

Corticeira's news comprised the launch of its new acoustic underflooring - ProfileCork and a new site devoted to underflooring, as well as its participation in a number of international fairs.

Amorim Revestimentos continues to gain prominence through important work projects, and achieve renown in the international and domestic arenas.

Amorim & Irmãos relates its most recent activities and initiatives, including the award of FSC certification to the Portocork industrial unit.

Quinta Nova is to be congratulated for the 5 medals awarded to its wines by the prestigious International Wine and Spirits and Monde Selection international competitions.

While we are on this subject, and since Christmas is not far off, we recommend the Quinta Nova and Barrancarnes hamper.

See you soon.

Credits

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Summary

ProfileCORK Corticeira Amorim-Indústria launches new, innovative acoustic underflooring	3
Another Amorim Unit obtains FSC – Forest Stewardship Council certification	4
www.acousticork.eu The site for AcoustiCORK™ underflooring	4
950 square metres of Wicanders Series 1000 are installed at VITO - Technology Institute	5
The author of the book <i>Judgement of Paris</i> - George Taber, visits Amorim	5
Corticeira Amorim-Indústria presents new boards and desktop articles in Japan	6
TV Galicia films Amorim & Irmãos	6
Quinta Nova seals international partnership	7
Westfries Archief in Holland refurbished using Wicanders Series 4000	8
Amorim Cork South Africa donates cork flooring to a community day care centre for agricultural workers	9
"Design for Future" Portuguese exhibition promotes sustainability	9
D. António José Cavaco Carrilho, the Auxiliary Bishop of Porto, visits Amorim	10
Kobe Cork visits Amorim Revestimentos	10
Gradus debuts new cork flooring sample folders for specifiers	11
Amorim & Irmãos represented at another Tecnovinis – 3 rd Viticulture and Oenological Techniques and Equipment Fair	12
Hotel Quinta Nova signs agreement with ACP	12
Corticeira Amorim-Indústria targets the British market with AcoustiCORK™ underflooring	13
Wines win awards in Europe	13
"Manchuela" visits Amorim	14
Caudalie: beauty among the vines	14
Amorim & Irmãos plays host to clients from Rioja, Spain	15
Suites Alba Resort & SPA, in the Algarve - with the comfort of Wicanders WRT "Cherry" flooring	15
Christmas Suggestions	16



ProfileCORK

Corticeira Amorim-Indústria launches new, innovative acoustic underflooring

The new acoustic underflooring ProfileCORK is just about to be launched by Corticeira Amorim-Indústria. This is an underflooring with a wavy surface, which significantly improves impact noise insulation and allows air to flow between the flooring and screed mortar. This pillow of air trapped in the lower part of the under-

flooring is precisely the reason for the excellent acoustic performance and the improved walking comfort of the final floor covering.

The ProfileCORK acoustic underflooring can be combined with a vast range of final flooring, particularly suspended flooring and ceramic floor tiles.

Another Amorim Unit obtains FSC

– Forest Stewardship Council



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
Because forests matter

It was recently Portocork Industrial Unit's turn to obtain FSC certification, following in the footsteps of Coruche Industrial Unit.

The certification of the Portocork Industrial Unit meant that Amorim & Irmãos was able to obtain Stewardship Chain Certification – the route taken by cork from the forest to the end customer. This certification is guaran-

tee to the client of a product originating from a certified forest.

There are only 14 FSC certified entities in Portugal, 11 of which possess stewardship chain certification.

This certification means that Amorim & Irmãos achieves one more objective in relation to product quality.

www.acousticork.eu

The site for AcoustiCORK™ underflooring

The AcoustiCORK™ acoustic underflooring range is available on the internet, at www.acousticork.eu.

The site, in Portuguese and English, is designed to be an important communication tool for the AcoustiCORK™ brand. This brand, which has already won over the US market, is benefiting from advanced market implementation in Europe.

The AcoustiCORK™ site, which targets contractors, specialised distributors, professional retailers and other similar groups, provides detailed information on the products, divided according to end flooring type, basic information on building acoustics and it has a frequently asked questions section concerning the acoustic underflooring and cork fields.



950 square metres of Wicanders Series 1000 are installed at VITO - Technology Institute

The Flemish Institute for Technological Research has been refurbished. This renovation project was managed by the company NV Geerts, of Mol (Belgium). 950 square metres of Wicanders Series 1000, supplied by the Amorim Revestimentos distributor, Van Avermaet, of Lokeren (Belgium), were installed.

VITO is a research centre specialising in the technical applications of the latest technology. This centre manages products and processes in the fields of energy, the environment and materials, for both the state and private companies. Environmental protection and fostering the long-lasting use of energy and raw materials are essential pillars of all the centre's projects.

The composition of Series 1000

Almost all the offices have been refurbished over a number of years, and at different phases. Given that each team member can install 40 to 50 m² per day, the largest areas were completed in record time. This speed is primarily due to the Corkloc installation system.

The composition of the Wicanders Series 1000 is identical to that of the Wicanders Series 3000, except for the upper decorative layer, which is cork veneer instead of wood veneer.

Wicanders Series 1000 is composed of six layers. The base layer is cork, which reduces sound propagation (this was one of the reasons why VITO selected this type of product). Above the layer of cork is a counter-balance layer in vinyl, and on top of this is a sheet of HDF. Above this is a layer of flexible and insulating cork, which is immediately beneath the decorative cork layer.

The Series 1000 (cork) like Series 3000 (wood) has a vinyl wear layer (0.5 mm). The manufacturer provides a

10-year guarantee for professional use and 20-year guarantee for home use, for this layer.

Series 1000 'Identity Champagne' was selected for installation in the VITO project. This cork flooring is amber coloured with a warm and neutral appearance.

Series 1000 as suspended flooring

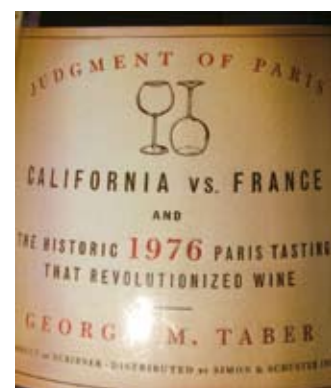
The VITO installation comprised, in practical terms, the removal of the previous flooring and some of the walls, followed by the application of a levelling compound. The floor was mechanically levelled in those areas where walls had previously been sited. Series 1000 was installed as suspended flooring, due to the Corkloc system that does not require glue. This system means that the start point does not matter, which is a great advantage in projects of this type. The cork floor was installed over a 0.2 mm thick polyethylene foam layer.

The work included the implementation of large expansion joints, due to the combination of heavy furniture and suspended installation. A gap of at least 3 cm was installed alongside walls and supporting columns. Given that it is not easy to hide expansion joints of this size using regular skirting boards, the team used a creative solution - the Wicanders skirting boards were installed horizontally on the floor. The skirting boards used were 6 cm high (equivalent to a width of 6 cm if laid horizontally) and they have the same design as the flooring (Identity Champagne), thereby ensuring they remain discrete. So, a skirting board was installed horizontally on the floor and another one vertically against the wall. The horizontal skirting board was laid underneath the vertical one, but it was not attached to the floor, which means that the flooring can expand underneath the skirting board lying down.

The author of the book *Judgement of Paris* - George Taber, visits Amorim

Amorim & Irmãos was visited in July by the renowned journalist and writer George Taber. George Taber was a journalist and editor of Time magazine in the USA and Europe over a 21 year period. He wrote countless articles on French wine and gastronomy while he was living in France, between 1973 and 1976.

It was during that period that he wrote the book *The Judgement of Paris*, which tells the true story of the mythical Paris wine tasting event of 1976, related by the only journalist attending the event. At the event, which comprises a blind wine tasting, wines from the then unknown wine producing region of California are selected ahead of the best French wines for the first time ever. This fact had a revolutionary impact on the world of wine, an effect that still reverberates to the present day.



Corticeira Amorim-Indústria presents new boards and desktop articles in Japan

CAI made its mark at ISOT, the most important office material fair in the Japanese market. A number of new products - both cork boards and desktop articles - were unveiled at its modern and attractive stand.

The principal new board products were the Trendy and Football collections, two collections wholly produced by CAI designers. The highlight of the new desktop articles went to the Flower collection, designed by Bleach Design, and to the bottle rack in corkleather.



TV Galicia films Amorim & Irmãos



Amorim & Irmãos played host to the Galician television station - TV Galicia - last June, as the station filmed the company's plants and cork oak forests. The film was used for the TV station's weekly programme Labranza, which

aimed to show the strong relationship existing between economy and nature.

The TV Galicia film crew filmed Amorim's entire cork production process, from the cork oak to the end product, over a period of two days.

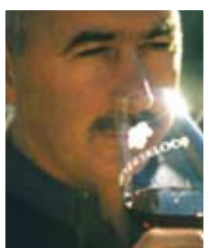
The programme was broadcast in July to a large audience. A number of clients and friends in North Spain sent, as a result, congratulatory messages to the company.

Quinta Nova seals international partnership

Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo has established a strategic partnership with Buyers Truter, the international award-winning South African oenologist.

The 2006 harvest is being worked on both by resident oenologist Francisco Montenegro and Buyers Truter, aimed at creating two exceptional wines, one of which will be a top-of-the-range product of limited supply. In tandem with the elegant wines containing subtle characteristics produced by Montenegro under the Quinta Nova label, this partnership will lead to a new brand featuring more concentrated and extracted wines in accordance with the style of Buyers.

This partnership will also be marked by the creation of a wine which is a cross between two vine varieties that symbolise the regions involved: Touriga Nacional (the foremost vine variety of the Douro region and of Quinta Nova) and Pinotage (a vine variety indigenous to South Africa). This produced a limited supply wine that was presented at the end of September in Cape Town, during the commemorations of 25 years of the Amorim branch in South Africa.



Buyers Truter



Francisco Montenegro

Westfries Archief in Holland refurbished using Wicanders Series 4000

Wicanders Series 4000 was the flooring chosen by the architect of ONX Architects in Haarlem, in charge of the construction and interior design of Westfries Archief, in the Dutch city of Hoorn.

The architect wanted a floor covering that would further highlight the building's character. Therefore, Wicanders Series 4000, 2-strip cherry was chosen. This flooring has a classical floor look, but one that is still perfect in a modern context.

Wicanders Series 4000 was installed over an area of approximately 180 m². More than 280 m² of Wicanders Access Floors were installed beside the 'wood floor', in a computer room. This solution means that the computer cables can be run underneath the floor.

The tiles are manufactured by Amorim, in the format 61 x 61 cm, and by PBS, the raised flooring producer, and are then converted into 60 x 60 cm tiles. The tiles are easily removed, in order to provide access to the cables. The Wicanders Series 4000 flooring is supplied in 90 cm long and 15 cm wide strips.

The total thickness of Series 4000 is 3.2 mm. The floor is composed of four different layers. After installation, the floor has the look of a classic wooden floor, without fittings or grooves, seemingly a hard wooden floor.

The surface is composed of a vinyl layer, around 0.5 mm thick. Underneath is a layer of veneer and a layer of cork. The bottom layer is also vinyl. Thus, all the materials that make up the surface are relatively flexible.

Wicanders Series 4000 requirements and specifications

The European standard for elastic surfaces (EN 685) provides a means of classification, through technical specifications and requirements, based on use intensity. This classification serves as a guide for manufacturers, architects and end users, aiding the selection of the most appropriate kind of flooring for each surface and application. Series 4000 flooring complies with the highest technical requirements in the domestic category (class 23), as well as the commercial category (class 33) and industrial category (class 42). The surface in vinyl, for example, has sufficiently low resistance to enable pushchairs and wheelchairs to move smoothly, and just enough, for example, to prevent office chairs from sliding too much.

Installation

The installation was performed by the Erkamp company, from Heiloo. Two workers took 5 days to perform the preparatory work and install the floor.

The flooring strips were completely glued to the screed mortar after they had been levelled. Wicanders W-336 glue was used.

Wicanders W-336

The cementing phase, using Wicanders W-336 glue, is very important in the installation process. It is a dispersion glue, containing no solvents, that is especially indicated for gluing PVC laminated flooring (cork).

A specific procedure must be followed with this glue. The evaporation and drying time of W-336 is around 10 minutes. The settling time is 15 to 20 minutes.

To glue 1m² of Wicanders Series 4000, 350 grams of W-336 glue are required. At least 80% of the rear face of the cork must be covered with glue. After placement (30 to 40 minutes), the flooring is compressed with a roller weighing 50 to 60 kg.

Finish

The factory finish of the surface is in vinyl. It can be seen under the microscope that the vinyl structure is not completely closed. When the glue is completely dry, a finish has to be applied. This drying process takes an average of 48 hours. V-Care is used for the finish layer. It is a polymer that hermetically closes the vinyl pores. Nevertheless, a polyurethane product manufactured by Dr. Schutz was used to finish the floor in the museum. This product is often recommended by Amorim.

The museum and the collection

The Westfries Museum is located in one of the most striking buildings in Hoorn. The building has a 17th century decorative false façade, full of lions and coats of arms. Inside the building, we can find state rooms, snug chambers, high attics and mysterious basements. The Westfries Museum is a history museum possessing a varied collection. It has a large number of objects on display in 25 ballrooms and rooms. These objects are related to many different areas, including the history of the city of Hoorn, arts circles, local citizens' militia, the Dutch East India Company, trade and archaeology. The collection has been continuously expanded during the time since the museum's founding, more than 100 years ago.

Amorim Cork South Africa donates cork flooring to a community day care centre for agricultural workers

The official launch of the Fairhills Association, a renowned Fairtrade project, occurred on 16 June 2006. Its launch is just reward for the hard work and perseverance that has been put in by Du Toitskloof, Du Toitskloof Winery and Origin Wine, all Amorim clients, since the project commenced in 2005.

Amorim Cork South Africa played an active role in the project, donating cork flooring for the refurbishment of three nursery schools, which will educate all of the children aged between three months and five years involved in the project. The cork flooring was used in additional classrooms and in the kitchens.

The classrooms were also equipped with televisions and Hi-Fi systems, for use as educational aids. Large outside recreational areas were created in anticipation of the extra children that the nursery schools will look after.

Fairtrade has become one of the fastest growing markets in the world. It currently boasts a net retail income from its products of greater than EUR 660 million, in Europe. During the opening ceremony, Maria Gallup, Head of Procurement of the important UK supermarket chain Co-op, delivered a cheque for EUR 100,000.00 to the chairperson of Fairhills, Jan Vermeulen. This cheque represented the FLO funds total (prizes) and the income from the sale of Fairtrade wine by the supermarket chain in 2005 to raise money for the Fairhills project.



“Design for Future”

Portuguese exhibition promotes sustainability

Cork and the reuse of materials were the themes of the work comprising the “Design for Future” exhibition, held in the Algarve between 27 July and 30 August.

The exhibition, which was in the Olhão City Museum, displayed alternatives as a means of creating better understanding of the objects forming part of everyday life, related to the area of sustainability. The exhibited works interpreted the concepts of recycling and reuse in a simple and creative manner.

Cork - a raw material under the spotlight

Cork was one of the materials under focus in the “Design for Future” exhibition. Its excellent natural characteristics were displayed, inspiring new products and uses.

The work of 14 designers from six countries was included in the exhibition. Brazil was one of the countries represented, through the designers Karin Wilschmann and Carla Tennenbaum.

D. António José Cavaco Carrilho, the Auxiliary Bishop of Porto, visits Amorim



The Auxiliary Bishop of Porto - D. António José Cavaco Carrilho with the General Director of Amorim & Irmãos - Victor Ribeiro, over lunch at Casa do Fundador

The Auxiliary Bishop of Porto, D. António José Cavaco Carrilho, made his pastoral visit to the parish of Santa Maria de Lamas, belonging to the 3rd Vicariate of the Diocese of Porto - Southern section, on 8 June. The visit's objective was to come into contact with the parish's living forces.

During the visit he wished to visit the parish's largest employer - Amorim & Irmãos, S.A. He mingled with the company's employees and management during the lunch hour, and gave his blessing that the company, in collaboration with its workers, suppliers and clients, would continue to grow and bear fruit.

Kobe Cork visits Amorim Revestimentos



Amorim Revestimentos played host to a visit last June by a group from Kobe Cork, Japan, as has become the custom in recent years.

The group, which was made up of 12 people, included Mr. Masaru Nagaku, the Chairman of Kobe Cork, as well as two of his closest employees, hierarchically speaking, some of the most representative sales staff of one of Kobe Cork's clients, an architect, and a journalist, the editing director and a photographer of Lighthouse Magazine.

The group was able to witness the stripping of cork oaks at a farm in Alentejo and visit four Amorim Group industrial units, during its seven day stay. The visited units were Amorim Isolamentos, Amorim & Irmãos, Corticeira Amorim e Amorim Revestimentos – as well as the *Central Laboratory – Labcork*.

In addition to the business issues, the visitors also had the chance to go on a series of sightseeing trips in the cities of Porto, Coimbra, Sintra and Lisbon.

At the end of the visit, the Chairman of Kobe Cork, Mr. Masaru Nagaku, expressed his desire that we should continue working together in the promotion of our products in Japan.

Gradus

debuts new cork

flooring sample

folders for specifiers

Continuing their ongoing partnership with Wicanders, Gradus Floorcoverings has developed new sample folders to help and inspire architects, designers and specifiers when selecting cork flooring.

The folders show the variety of product finishes available in the Wicanders range of cork flooring, available exclusively to contract markets in the UK and Ireland through Gradus.

The first folder shows the cork finishes with 37 different colours, some traditional and some surprising. Presented in 4 collections - Originals, Identity, Personality, and Nuances – the range offers a choice of patterns, textures and colours to meet even the most avant-garde requirements.

The second folder shows samples of the 30 real wood finishes in the Classic and Vintage collections. Available in plank, “2 - strip” and “3 - strip” formats, this range takes the basis of cork and adds a genuine wood veneer to combine the elegance of a real wood finish with the benefits of cork flooring.

There’s a fantastic range of exciting natural floorcoverings available to architects nowadays and cork is just one of those but it offers some outstanding benefits. As well as its natural beauty, cork flooring guarantees noise reduction and natural thermal insulation. It’s comfort-

able and easy to clean, as well as long-lasting. It is also an environmentally-friendly product; unlike wood flooring that is produced from felled trees, cork is harvested from the bark of the cork oak tree which regrows again so the tree is not harmed in any way.

The new folders also include details of the options available for floating and stick down flooring for both contract and domestic use as well as information about which designs are available for quick delivery from stock held in the UK.

Pamela Cairns from Gradus said: “These folders are an exciting addition to architects’ libraries and we’re hoping they become an invaluable tool for specifiers looking for something really special when they are planning projects. The real life samples give a great indication to designers of the types of finish available, and the folders also give full information on the technical specification as well as the different formats that are available so that specifiers can make an informed choice. We have included installation photographs for inspiration and I’m sure the folders will prove to be a useful resource.”

The products featured in the new folders are suitable for a variety of applications in commercial, retail, hospitality, residential, healthcare and education markets.

Amorim & Irmãos represented at another Tecnovinis

– 3rd Viticulture and Oenological Techniques and Equipment Fair

Exponor played host, between 1 and 4 June, to the largest fair of the winemaking sector in Portugal - comprising Expovinis, Tecnovinis and, for the first time, the Gourmet pavilion.

The objective of Expovinis, Tecnovinis and the Gourmet pavilion, which targeted those companies operating in the sector, was to create, promote and strengthen commercial relations between those operating in the sector. A further objective was to contribute to the international expansion of Portuguese companies, as the fair was attended by a number of important foreign procurement agents.

Once again, Amorim & Irmãos held a stand at this renowned event. Over the four exhibition days, the stand had countless visitors.

A range of other events ran in parallel to the Expovinis / Tecnovinis and Gourmet 2006 fair, including seminars, conferences and workshops.



Amorim & Irmãos stand

Hotel Quinta Nova signs agreement with ACP



The Hotel Rural da Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo signed a protocol in July with the Portugal Motor Club (ACP), aimed at providing its members with promotions for its services, including special discounts.

The partnership will create thematic programmes throughout the year, in perfect harmony with the agricultural activities of the estate and the cultural initiatives of the region.

If you are an ACP member you now have another reason to come and visit us in the Douro.

Corticeira Amorim - Indústria

targets the British market with AcoustiCORK™ underflooring

After a successful show at the Interbuild fair in Birmingham, England, CAI is going to participate in the National Floor Show, the most important British coverings trade fair, to be held in Harrogate, between 5 and 7 September.

In a market where carpets and suspended floors account for the lion's share of the market, CAI will continue to promote AcoustiCORK™ acoustic underflooring, which is acknowledged by the European and North American markets as being ideal for acoustically insulating floors from impact noise as well as internal environmental noise.

www.acousticork.eu



Wines win awards in Europe

Quinta Nova won 5 medals at the prestigious Monde Selection International Competition (Belgium) and the International Wine and Spirits Competition (England).

The former attributed the Quinta Nova Vintage 1997, Vintage 2000 and LBV 2000 wines with the silver medal in the category of Port Wines. The English fair awarded prizes to the wines LBV 2000 and Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo Tinto 2003, with bronze medals attributed in the respective categories.

“Manchuela” visits Amorim

The Regulatory Board of the “Manchuela” denomination of origin area, accompanied by some of the area’s companies, visited the cities of Évora, Espinho and Porto, between 7 and 10 June. The visit’s purpose was the promotion of the area’s wines and the producers’ investment in quality, much of which has to do with the fact that cork is used to stop the bottles. The use of cork bestows the image of quality and food safety that the “Manchuela” D.O. seek.

The main objective of the visit was to see first-hand the meticulous quality controls and latest technology and innovation used in the natural cork field.

While the group was in the south of Portugal, it was able



Group photograph during the visit to the Coruche Unit

to visit a cork oak forest and the Coruche industrial unit. They observed, amongst the many activities, the CONVEX® cooking system, the cork selection process (to obtain the best quality cork) and the preventive and treatment measures used by Amorim at this plant.

The members of the regulatory board and companies of the “Manchuela” D.O. were particularly interested in the meticulous quality control and innovative research systems existing in the cork sector.



Caudalie: beauty among the vines

Did you know that the Hotel Rural has a partnership with the skincare cosmetics and vinotherapy brand Caudalie?

It all began in 1993, at the Château Smith Haut Lafitte (Bordeaux - France), where research proved the antioxidant power of the polyphenols contained in grape seeds. This gave rise, in 2003, to the registering of the patent by Caudalie of a wide range of skincare cosmetics and vinotherapy products. Hypoallergenic and non-comedogenic, the Cau-

dalie products are sold in pharmacies all over Europe.

The Hotel Rural da Quinta Nova is the only hotel in Portugal that has a partnership with Caudalie, offering its guests vinotherapy amenities and organising regular experimental and micro-facial treatment sessions and gift kits in specific initiatives.

Learn about vinotherapy at www.caudalie.com or on a visit to the Douro valley.

Amorim & Irmãos

plays host to clients from Rioja, Spain

Last July, Amorim & Irmãos played host to a visit from a group from Rioja, one of the world's most prestigious wine producing regions. The objective of the visit was to provide an overview to its clients of the entire cork manufacturing process, thereby promoting and valorising its products and creating increased customer loyalty.

The group visited the Coruche, Amorim & Irmãos, Manuel Pereira de Sousa and Amorim Distribuição plants during the three-day visit.

The entire production process was explained during these visits, with particular emphasis placed on our anti-TCA systems as well as on the selection of the raw material.



Group at Amorim & Irmãos



Suites Alba Resort & SPA, in the Algarve

- with the comfort of Wicanders WRT “Cherry” flooring

Suites Alba Resort & SPA is the most recent five star hotel development in the Algarve. It is located in the magnificent natural environment of Praia da Albandeira, in Carvoeiro/Lagoa. The hotel is composed of 50 luxurious suites, most of which have two bedrooms, living room, kitchenette and bathroom, and all are equipped with flat TV, DVD system, fireplace and air conditioning. The decoration favours soft Mediterranean tones, which Wicanders WRT “Cherry” fits to perfection. This was one

of the floorings chosen for the wide-open indoor spaces of the resort. The flooring effortlessly meets the quality and comfort standards in place at Suites Alba Resort & SPA.

The hotel development also possesses a spa, with a range of treatment and relaxation plans on offer, as well as an indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, gymnasium, an enormous outdoor swimming pool, lush gardens and unique countryside. Luís Figo is one of the hotel's owners.

Christmas Suggestions



This Christmas Quinta Nova and Barrancarnes have got together to produce a set of packages, among which are several combinations of wines and olive oils from Quinta Nova and special meats and spicy sausages from the Casa do Porco Preto, covering different price ranges.

Contact us in good time to order that perfect Christmas gift.

AMORIM INVESTIMENTOS E PARTICIPAÇÕES, S.G.P.S., S.A.

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