

Pavilion of Portugal hosts world's
biggest-ever cork installation



“Cork offers numerous physical benefits and can be very expressive. In addition to offering thermal and acoustic insulation and ecological advantages, it communicates something that is very sensorial and has aesthetic value.”

Manuel Aires Mateus



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editorial

Cork is Corticeira Amorim's core business and the company has been working with this raw material since 1870. Over the years - as we intensify our knowledge of the raw material - we're convinced that this business segment, which we lead, is unique in the world. Throughout our corporate history our focus has always been on cork and its appreciation, not only as a raw material that offers high technical performance, but which also has unique attributes in sensorial and aesthetic terms.

In this context, Corticeira Amorim's multiple partnerships with a wide range of highly reputed partners and creative talent worldwide have been of utmost importance. It is a privilege to find architects and designers who are increasingly motivated to investigate how to use cork and who develop innovative concepts for this raw material. These creatives have developed several ground-breaking projects, always of unquestionable aesthetic value, but whose impact goes far beyond mere aesthetic considerations. We often encounter new challenges. The only way we can successfully respond to the briefings submitted to us is through innovation, either of processes or the applications themselves. We have achieved this task with distinction, by virtue of the hard work and skills of Corticeira Amorim's team.

In this edition, we present the world's largest temporary cork installation, a work led by Manuel Aires Mateus for the Pavilion of Portugal, designed by Álvaro Siza Vieira, which hosted the 3rd Archi Summit 2017 – an event involving hundreds of Portuguese and foreign architects, who shared knowledge and techniques.

In the Centro Cultural de Belém, one of Portugal's most important cultural institutions, there is a public square covered in cork, designed by the architect José Neves, which hosts summer activities.

From Portugal [where, in the MAAT, it's possible to stay overnight in a temporary house fitted with cork solutions] to the world, we find cork in the Venice Biennale [exhibiting a Wicanders' flooring in an installation by Leonor Antunes] or in the window displays of New York's famous Saks Fifth Avenue, in a new line of furniture designed by Eugene Stoltzfus. In fact, in the furniture sector, new 3D cork-moulding technology has opened up an infinite range of creative possibilities.

This international projection makes us proud, but also anxious, because we're keenly aware that we want to continue to chart this path. Corticeira Amorim is reinforcing this commitment. New challenges arise every day and the team remains attentive and available to embrace them, combining professionalism and enthusiasm for a unique raw material, in a business activity that is a paradigm example of sustainability.

Best regards,
Cristina Rios de Amorim





Pavilion of Portugal hosts world's biggest-ever cork installation

Arch Summit 2017, held in Portugal, wasn't "only" a privileged stage for an encounter involving architects, engineers and designers. It also hosted the world's biggest ever temporary cork exhibition, in a project involving around 5,000 blocks of expanded cork agglomerate, a 100% natural material provided by Amorim Isolamentos, in a clear manifestation for the preservation of the environment and the cork tree - the National Tree of Portugal.

In total, the studio of Manuel Aires Mateus – the author of the project - and the SAMI studio of Setúbal, co-authors of the work, used cork to cover a 2,000 m² area, corresponding to the entire exterior area of the Pavilion of Portugal. This area corresponds to the famous concrete "canopy" of the Pavilion of Portugal, a work designed by the award-winning architect, Álvaro Siza Vieira, for Expo 98.

In total, the cork installation exceeds 760 m³, making it the largest ever made in the world. For this purpose, Amorim Isolamentos organized a mega-logistical operation to prepare and deliver the material, which involved the mobilization of infrastructures, human resources and dozens of trucks over several days.

The dynamic behind this initiative began with organisation of Archi Summit 2017 – Portugal's only architecture summit. The third edition marked the return of the architect Álvaro Siza Vieira to the conference circuit, and included the presence of several of the world's leading architects, such as Valério Olgiati.

**archi
summit
2017**

Manuel Aires Mateus, the project leader, reveals that "Cork offers many advantages, since it can respond to different requirements at the same time. It can easily be assembled, is lightweight and creates complete independence from the structure housing the project. The support provided by Amorim Isolamentos was vitally important. The company has also been our partner for other projects of this nature in the past."



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“A Square in the Summer” in the CCB

A temporary work by the architect, José Neves, which uses expanded cork agglomerate supplied by Corticeira Amorim.

In the framework of this year’s edition of “A Square in the Summer”, the Praça CCB has been designed using expanded cork agglomerate - a 100% natural material supplied by Amorim Isolamentos.

For this event, which runs until 12 September, at the invitation of Garagem Sul, the architect José Neves conceived a cork installation capable of stimulating the senses, while reconstituting the mechanics of the space, embodying the transformation of the place and creating an opportunity to experience the nature of the materials used.

The weekly screening of documentaries about architecture and music in the Praça CCB, as part of the CCB’s Summer programme, is the pretext for offering a multifaceted construction that will combine various uses - including a playground and recreational area for the many visitors that visit this space during the summer months.

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José Neves explains that “cork is an absolutely familiar material and, at the same time, is always surprising, with a great deal still to explore as a construction material. I like almost everything about Amorim’s black cork agglomerate blocks. In addition to their well-known characteristics, in terms of technical and acoustic insulation, I like their size; easily manageable scale and proportion, identical to long Lego bricks, dark and warm colours - earthly browns and tree trunks - that change a lot in the light and transform over time, rough and monotonous texture and aroma. I think that Daciano Costa was right when he said that one day someone will come along and use cork from the Portuguese cork tree, in the same way that Alvar Aalto did with birch wood in Finland.

He added: “Over the last few days, while the work was being assembled in the CCB, I don’t think there was anyone who while crossing the Praça CCB, didn’t stop to stare at the cork walls and wanted to touch them with their hands”.



MAAT enables immersive experience using cork

Corticeira Amorim is one of the corporate partners of the project, APQHome – MAAT, which since 17 May until 19 October, is offering an immersive experience inside the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT). Designed by Ana Pérez-Quiroga, this is her most extensive artistic project to date, comprised by a domestic area - composed by a house and its objects - and a garden. The project is curated by MAAT's director, Pedro Gadanho.

Ana Pérez-Quiroga chose a flooring solution with a white-toned cork visual, from Wicanders - Amorim Revestimentos' premium brand. According to Ana Pérez-Quiroga, the effect achieved through application of this flooring solution even surpassed her initial expectations: "Placed longitudinally, the narrow, long planks make the floor seem even longer." She added: "It's extremely satisfying to be able to use cork - such a natural, organic material with a reduced environmental impact".



The use of cork is not limited to the flooring solution from Wicanders. As the artist points out, she used several technical solutions from Amorim Cork Composites, which play a decisive role in the project's viability: "The cork composites used - ranging from the cork granulates (used in the garden beds or to fill the benches) to the rolls - are exceptional not only because of their formal value, but because in tactile terms they create an irresistible urge to touch them".

maat



Venice Biennale presents cork flooring solution

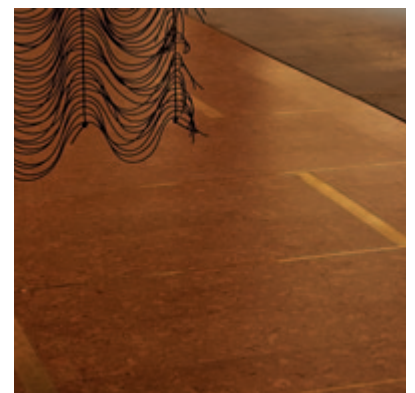
After her experience in the CAPC - Museum of Contemporary Art in Bordeaux - Leonor Antunes has once again selected a flooring solution from Wicanders for an installation presented in the Venice Biennale - one of the world's most important international art exhibitions.

The work of the Italian architects Carlo Scarpa and Franco Albini was Leonor Antunes' inspiration for her installation in the 57th Venice Biennale, which runs until November 26 in the historic centre of Arsenale. For this purpose, the Portuguese artist chose a cork flooring solution from Wicanders, placed in a 100 m2 area, in a project that she says pays tribute to the remodelling works overseen by the two well-known architects in several Italian museums, and other buildings linked to the worlds of culture and the arts.

In a Biennale dedicated to the theme, "Viva Arte Viva", Leonor Antunes renews the concept of a flooring solution created by Carlo Scarpa for the San Vito d'Altivole cemetery in Treviso. However, unlike the original project - in which the architect used copper and stone for the mausoleum's main corridor - the Portuguese artist has enlarged the scale of these lines and used a cork solution to provide a cosier and more natural environment. Leonor Antunes also justifies the selection of cork because "it's a raw material that is essentially produced in Portugal, and thus endows the project with another differentiating and sustainable element."

After her experience at the CAPC - Museum of Contemporary Art in Bordeaux - this is the second time, in a short space of time, that Leonor Antunes has chosen a Wicanders' cork flooring solution to materialise her creative vision.

As with the work presented in the CAPC, in the Venice Biennale Leonor Antunes also presents a set of sculptures suspended on the floor which reinforce cork's unique appeal and the way that it harmoniously interconnects with materials such as leather and brass, which she regularly uses in her work.





3D moulding using cork is already a reality

Corticeira Amorim has established a partnership with a group of Swedish companies with extensive experience in the furniture industry and in moulding techniques for wood, thereby enabling the world's leading cork producer to enter a new business area - 3D moulding. The innovation encompasses development of a new cork composite and adaptation of proprietary moulding techniques to enable 3D moulding technology to be used to process cork industrially for the first time ever.

In this project, which enables the creation of complex cork formats, Corticeira Amorim was assisted by a multidisciplinary team of designers, and other technical specialists such as engineers and chemists. Amorim Cork Composites brought together a team able to develop competitive solutions for large-scale projects in the furniture industry, including construction of moulds, technical support in the industrialization of products and the acoustic performance of the solutions.



It should be noted that each 3D shape is a new challenge, and therefore knowledge and mastery of these moulding techniques are of the utmost importance. Simultaneously, the new cork composite provides an effective response to the curvilinear formats that are characteristic of 3D printing.

In this context, and in function of the intended application, cork can be moulded with different materials available in the market, such as wood veneers, organic materials or polyester fibres, all of which benefit from cork's sensorial and functional attributes.



Saks Fifth Avenue highlights cork furniture

The display window of the high-profile fashion store, Saks Fifth Avenue, in New York was decorated for three weeks with a collection of cork furniture, designed by the renowned design and architecture studio, Eugene Stoltzfus Furniture Design.

Amorim Cork Composites USA supplied the cork for this new furniture collection, which once again extols the advantages of cork for this purpose, since it is flexible, pleasant to touch and suitable for advanced moulding techniques.

The Lisbon collection consists of tables, support modules and chairs, that combine cork with steel frames.

Raylin Diaz, Visual Windows Director at Saks Fifth Avenue, says that the new collection offers "a great aesthetic, using authentic materials."

According to Eugene Stoltzfus, ESFD's founder, "The Lisbon Collection's timeless appeal is perfect for an avant-garde fashion brand such as Saks."



NDTech distinguished in the 14th COTEC National Innovation Encounter

The innovative technology, NDTech, developed by Corticeira Amorim to screen natural corks, received an Honourable Mention in the COTEC-ANI 2017 Product Innovation Award.

The announcement was made during the 14th National Innovation Encounter, held in CEIIA, in Matosinhos (Portugal), presided by the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, and attended by the Minister of Economy, Caldeira Cabral.

NDTech is a ground-breaking technology that has revolutionised quality control, since it introduces the first-ever individual screening in cork stopper production lines, using gas chromatography - one of the world's most sophisticated chemical analysis systems. With a high level of accuracy, NDTech is able to detect any cork stopper that has more than 0.5 nanograms / litre (parts per trillion) of TCA, which is automatically removed from the production line.

NDTech
by Amorim

A thrilling night for Amorim Cork Italia

Amorim Cork Italia organized another edition of "Dinner served by 8 hands", a social event attended by journalists who, over the years, have taken part in press tours to Amorim's production units in Portugal.

This event was attended by over thirty guests, from the leading Italian publications covering the cork and wine sectors. As suggested by the event's name, there were four cooks: Carlos Veloso dos Santos, General Manager of Amorim Cork Italia, who prepared a free interpretation of the dish, *Bacalhau à Lagareiro* (cod fish in olive oil), Davide di Corato who prepared the starters, Paolo Alciati who prepared the first courses, and Cristina Sparvoli who prepared the desserts.

Carlos Veloso dos Santos explained that this was "the opportunity to bring together professionals who have known each other for many years and who have inevitably forged ties of friendship. We want to achieve a relaxing moment of pleasant conversation, in which everyone can enjoy the good moments in life".

For the venue, Amorim Cork Italia chose the reception of the Wine Resort Prime Altare, a magnificent winery situated on the hills of Oltrepò Pavese, near Milan.



South-African producer Anthonij Rupert Wyne chooses Helix for his wines

Anthonij Rupert Wyne is a distinguished producer of South African wines, renowned for his commitment to the environment and unique dedication to innovation. All this is embodied in the range of eight Protea wines, with unique packaging, that is designed to "upcycle" the offer, and is now bottled using the ground-breaking Helix packaging concept.

Developed by the world's leading cork and glass packaging suppliers - Corticeira Amorim and OI - Helix is an unprecedented combination of an ergonomically designed cork stopper and a glass bottle with an internal thread in the bottleneck, delivering a sophisticated solution, that offers high technical performance for fast turnaround wines.

The added value offered by Helix is that it offers the full benefits of cork and glass, in terms of quality, sustainability and premium image, with the novelty of simple opening and easy reinsertion of the cork.

Cork stoppers used in 95% of the top-selling wines in China



In China, wine connoisseurs prefer red wines, because red is considered to be auspicious in Chinese culture. But there is another aspect associated to the premium quality of wines - cork.

A recent study by Nielsen concluded that Chinese consumers prefer cork-sealed wines. The US consulting firm analysed the 100 top-selling wines in 2016, in China's biggest hypermarket chains located in the country's 24 largest cities, and found that 95% used cork.

The figures also indicate that for China's wine connoisseurs, cork is synonymous with quality and on average, they are willing to pay an additional 34.16 yuan (about €4.40) for cork-sealed wines.

These conclusions are even more relevant if one considers the outlook of China's wine sector. Today, China is the biggest export market for many of the leading wine-producing countries, and its growth rates are higher than anywhere else in the world. With 847,000 ha of vineyards, China is also the world's second largest wine producing area.

Analysis of the 100 top-selling wines in China, 65 are Chinese, and the rest come from France (23), Australia (9), USA (1), Chile (1) and Spain (1). With regard to another high-growth market - Australian wines - eight of the nine top-selling Australian wines exported to China are sealed with high-end cork stoppers.

Profile of the 100 top-selling wines in China



65% are Chinese
35% are imported



99% red wines
1% white wines



Wines from 6 countries around the world



95% use cork stoppers

Comparison of prices by type of seal

2016	Cork stopper	Artificial closures	Variation	Percentage
Average per litre (in Yuan)	138.40	104.24	-34.16	32.8%



Corticeira Amorim sponsors Australian prize Young Gun of Wine

Corticeira Amorim is the new sponsor of Young Gun of Wine, an Australian prize created in 2007, that aims to encourage young wine producers to present their best concepts.

The Young Gun of Wine aims to challenge the status quo, through the creation of wines that convey authenticity and integrity, also contributing to raising Australia's profile as a major producer of premium wines.

Corticeira Amorim recognizes innovation as a pillar of any sustainable growth strategy and, since it is aligned with these aspirations, it aims to support the efforts made by this group of young entrepreneurs.

According to Rory Kent, founder of the Young Gun of Wine, the prize is a response to growing creativity in the wine sector: "The number of new producers is rising every year. Over the last decade we have seen an explosion in the wine sector in the number of young independent producers and the varieties and methods that they use".

The list of producers competing for the Prize covered 200 wine producers from throughout Australia. With more than 60 classified wine regions, vineyards occupy around 160,000 hectares of Australia's national territory. Each year, more than 17 million hectolitres of wine are produced.

In 2016, China surpassed the United States as the main importer of Australian wines, an increase of 45% over 2015, rising to 99 million litres. Since China has become Australia's biggest wine export market and given that preliminary data from a study recently developed by Nielsen indicates that 95% of China's 100 top-selling wines are sealed with cork stoppers and are sold at a higher price, new producers of Australian wines, such as those competing for the Young Gun of Wine, constitute an important target market whose awareness of the value of cork should be raised.





According to Fortunato Frederico, chairman of the Kyaia group, “The ASPORTUGUESAS brand involves a new concept of flip-flops. After being given the opportunity to become partners in this project, we didn’t hesitate. Our company has a long business track record and know-how in the footwear business, but this agreement will enable us to enter the flip-flops segment for the first time, with a product that we consider has tremendous potential”.

Pedro Abrantes, CEO of Ecochic explains that “It’s an honour to combine in the same project the world’s leading cork producer and the leader of the Portuguese footwear sector. After the support of Corticeira Amorim, whose R&D strengths were fundamental to enable us to attain maturity in terms of product development, Kyaia’s support will now accelerate the international growth process of ASPORTUGUESAS”.

Launched in March 2016, the main benefits of the brand ASPORTUGUESAS – which uses cork as its main raw material and differentiating element – include comfort, an ergonomic strap, greater resistance in the connection between the strap and sole, and extra grip on wet floors.

Flip-flops ASPORTUGUESAS bring together the Amorim and Kyaia groups

The leading Portuguese footwear firm, Kyaia, has decided to join forces with the world’s leading cork producer, Amorim, and entrepreneur Pedro Abrantes to boost the growth of the flip-flops brand, ASPORTUGUESAS.

Ecochic - a startup created by Pedro Abrantes with Amorim Cork Ventures, that owns the world’s first cork flip flops brand – will now benefit from an important investment from the Kyaia group.

As part of this partnership, the 2018 collection, due to be launched by the end of the year, is already being developed by Pedro Abrantes in close collaboration with both business groups, while simultaneously analysing possible entrance into new markets, in particular the UK and USA - the Kyaia group’s main export markets.





New ACM 30 primary deck covering already has an IMO/MED Certification

The ACM 30 solution, from Amorim Cork Composites - a primary deck covering specifically developed for the maritime industry - recently received an IMO / MED international certification, which ensures that the product meets the fire safety requirements of a wide array of different ships and boats, in particular vessels with flags - such as yachts, cruise ships and passenger vessels.

This material is a cork composite specially developed for levelling and fairing the vessel's deck. It's 2-5 times lighter than alternative solutions.

ACM30 thereby makes it possible to improve the vessel's performance and classification, significantly increasing its energy efficiency. Insulation of the vessel's deck is another great advantage of this versatile product, which easily adapts to several types of flooring structures.

MMFA event organized by Amorim Cork Composites

This year's General Assembly of the MMFA - Multilayer Modular Flooring Association - was held in Porto in May. Amorim Cork Composites is a member of the MMFA.

For two days, 75 professionals from leading European flooring companies and their suppliers discussed the state of the art of this industry, and trends and innovations for the sector, in areas such as new technologies, product categories, certification and research & development.

The event highlighted the typology of LVT - Luxury Vinyl Tile - floors. Cork composites are an example of materials that may be used in the production of LVT floors, delivering performance benefits at various levels, including thermal and acoustic insulation, dimensional stability, and additional comfort for the end user or the lightness that it confers to the final product.

In the opinion of Matthias Windmüller, the MMFA's president, the meeting "was a great success. We spent two very full days, with intense discussions and fascinating lectures". He added: "We would like to thank António Amorim and his team for their hospitality, generosity and organisational support for this meeting."



Brick, from Wicanders, distinguished in Tektónica

The Portugal Constrói 2017 Award highlights the contribution made by Amorim Revestimentos' new collection to affirmation of the Portuguese identity.

Brick is the latest collection of wallcoverings from the premium brand, Wicanders, which was distinguished in Tektónica with the Portugal Constrói 2017 Award, due to its important role in affirming Portuguese identity. Amorim Revestimentos' new collection, which - as the name implies - refers to the shape of a brick, constitutes an innovation in the presentation of cork-based wall coverings. This evolution has been recognized in one of Portugal's leading trade fairs for the building industry.

This is the second consecutive year that a product from Amorim Revestimentos has received an award during Tektónica. Last year, the Hydrocork flooring collection was awarded a prize in the Innovation category, attesting to its ground-breaking characteristics.

Quinta Nova strengthens its presence in New York

For many people, New York is the capital of the world - a destination that is always well worth a visit, whether for work or leisure. Aware of this situation, Quinta Nova has increased its presence in the “city that never sleeps”, by providing its Quinta Nova Unoaked Red wine in three of Manhattan’s most distinguished restaurants: Paowalla, Annisa and Hanoi House. Not to be missed!



Ferrão Quay: from dream to reality

The new Ferrão quay, on the right bank of the river Douro, in front of the Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo estate, is already in full operation.

Managed by the APDL (Douro and Leixões Port Authority), this quay can now safely and comfortably receive small and medium-sized boats, that want to visit the municipality of Sabrosa.

Quinta Nova, due to its natural proximity to Ferrão, can thereby propose, in a very exclusive manner, and with extra support for transfers, a visit to the estate and other Wine tourism, Catering and Accommodation services for anyone who decides to enjoy the Douro’s landscapes from the river. Whether travelling in rabelo boats, classic vessels, sailboats or yachts, with the new quay it’s possible to organize private trips and create unforgettable experiences for visitors.



Conceitus has a new chef

Rui Frutoso is the new chef of the Conceitus restaurant, in the Quinta Nova N. S. do Carmo estate. The young chef already has wide experience of the region and beyond. Having previously worked in hotels in the Douro region and in France, as well as teaching at the Hotel and Tourism School of Douro, this young fan of the region, including its flavours and traditions, now leads the path of excellence proposed by Quinta Nova’s “winery restaurant” to the approximately 12,000 people that visit this paradise each year, located on the north bank of the river Douro.

Quinta Nova Rosé wine served to Pope Francis

After Pope Francis’ visit to Portugal, Quinta Nova Rosé 2016 wine was chosen to be served in the return flight to the Vatican, on 13 May.

The wines to be tasted on board were chosen by the food and wine consultant, Chef Vitor Sobral. After considering several options he chose to serve the Pope the Quinta Nova NS Carmo Rosé 2016 wine, a surprising wine that highlights the capacity to produce an excellent rosé wine, that guarantees all the authenticity of Portuguese grape varieties.

Quinta Nova relaunches Rosé Reserva 2016 wine

A unique taste
of the Douro
region for fans
of precision white
and red wines

Quinta Nova Rosé Reserva 2016 is a wine of great distinction and sophistication, that is changing the recent history of rosé wines produced in Portugal.

"This wine reveals a very fine concentration for a Rosé wine. It's wonderful, focused and exciting. Dry and rather stern, it's a wine that's ideal for accompanying food, more reminiscent of a big red wine than a common rosé," says Mark Squires, critic of the American wine guide, Robert Parker, who gave it a note of 91 points, the highest ever note for a Portuguese rosé wine from this prestigious wine publication.

