



# NEWS

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CORTICEIRA AMORIM  
LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST  
NATURAL CORKS WITH NON-  
DETECTABLE TCA GUARANTEE



# GUARANTEED EXCELLENCE

THE WORLD'S BEST WINE STOPPER JUST GOT BETTER

NDtech individually checks each natural cork stopper, thereby confirming that if any TCA remains present in the cork it lies below the detection threshold of 0.5 nanograms/litre\*.



\*releasable TCA content below the 0.5 ng/L quantification limit; analysis performed in accordance to ISO 20752.

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## EDITORIAL

Natural cork is the perfect seal for the world's finest wines.

The connection between cork and wine dates back to the fifth century B.C., in Greece, where amphorae were sealed with cork stoppers. This is a rare example of a product that has been continuously used over millennia by mankind. Even today, cork is the paradigm of quality as the world's best wine stopper.

This remarkable fact is underpinned by the excellent performance of natural cork, due to its unique cellular composition. Every wine cork has about 800 million cells, each playing an important role in the evolution of the wine. Cork's elasticity ensures that stoppers guarantee a high technical performance, while the unique blend of oxygen and complex phenolic compounds contained in its cellular structure enables wines to age properly in the bottle – enhancing antioxidant properties and providing the distinctive qualities that wine connoisseurs appreciate throughout the world.

As with any material, cork is potentially exposed to contamination. For wine corks the main risk is related to the possible presence of TCA – a volatile chemical compound that even in very small quantities can affect the expected evolution of the wine's flavours and aromas.

Given the importance of this issue for the cork and wine industries – where players and consumers recognise natural cork as the best stopper – the launch of ND Tech, which we present in this edition, is an unprecedented innovation, that offers the best of both worlds.

As a result of ND Tech, wine producers can use natural cork stoppers with a guarantee of optimal sensory performance, due to revolutionary quality control, that is achieved for the first time on an individualized basis, thus effectively eliminating – and without exception – the risk of contamination by TCA.

This is the culmination of a long R&D and Innovation process that the company began at the start of the twenty first century, in the clear conviction that a natural seal is the best ally for wine.

The fruits of this strategy are beginning to appear. Corticeira Amorim is recording some of the finest years ever in its long history and cork is unquestionably affirming itself as a synonym of quality wine, with a premium appearance and unique aspirational characteristics.

NDTech is a truly ground-breaking innovation in any industry, in any part of the world.

Our painstaking attention to detail is a crystal clear sign of our commitment to the tens of thousands of international companies whom we are proud to call our customers, and who underpin our growth.

Kind regards,  
**António Rios de Amorim**



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# CORTICEIRA AMORIM LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST NATURAL CORKS WITH NON-DETECTABLE TCA GUARANTEE

***New technology enables individual screening and marks a turning point in the industry***

In a move that clearly strengthens its status as world market leader, CORTICEIRA AMORIM has announced the launch of a truly innovative technology for the cork industry – thereby becoming the world's first cork producer to deliver natural cork stoppers to winemakers with a non-detectable TCA guarantee\*. NDTech is a cutting-edge technology, which enables a revolution in terms of quality control, to the extent that it introduces an individualized screening procedure on production lines, for the first time ever.





António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim, emphasises that **“The company’s firm commitment to continuously deliver high quality cork stoppers to the market, has been instrumental in enabling Corticeira Amorim to consolidate its position as market leader. Over the last five years the company’s sales of cork stoppers has risen from 3 billion stoppers to a record number of 4.2 billion stoppers in 2015. This growth is in part due to greater general awareness of the technical advantages and sustainability of cork, as well as its capacity to add value to wine. With NDtech, the world’s best stopper has just got better.”**

**NDtech**<sup>®</sup>  
by Amorim

\* A non-detectable TCA guarantee means that if any TCA remains in a cork it is below the detection threshold of 0.5 nanograms/litre; Analysis conducted in accordance with the ISO 20752 standard.

Previously, each gas chromatography test – considered to be one of the world’s most sophisticated chemical analysis procedures – took up to 14 minutes, making it impossible to use on an automated basis in production lines. It should be noted, however, that Corticeira Amorim’s quality control process continues to integrate these analyses, made on the basis of a statistically significant sample and a total of 16 thousand analyses per month.

The development of the super-fast NDtech is the culmination of a series of measures aimed at ensuring impeccable sensory control of natural cork – that has long been considered to be the benchmark stopper and that which offers the greatest added value for wines. The breakthrough follows a five-year €10 million research and development investment by Amorim, and a partnership with a British company specialising in gas chromatography.

With incredibly high precision, NDtech can detect any cork with more than 0.5 nanograms of TCA per litre (parts per trillion). These corks are automatically removed from the production line. The level of precision necessary to meet this standard on an industrial scale for 100 per cent of the corks examined is astounding, especially given that the detection threshold of 0.5 nanograms/litre is

the equivalent of one drop of water in 800 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Two of the world’s leading wine industry research facilities — Hochschule Geisenheim University and The Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) — have been engaged to independently validate the performance of NDtech. The fact that Amorim’s NDtech is the only individual screening technology undergoing a double, scientific validation underlines the magnitude of this technological breakthrough.

NDtech will initially be applied to Corticeira Amorim’s top-end natural cork stoppers used on some of the world’s most valuable wine brands, including Portuguese wines. The initial response from winemakers has been extremely positive as was expected, especially given the important role that premium packaging has for wine exports to crucial markets such as the US and China.

As the world’s leading cork producer, Amorim has stood at the forefront of the fight against TCA – a naturally forming chemical compound that is a problem in the packaged food and beverage industries – through the application of rigorous production standards and certified quality control methods.



# AMORIM CORK VENTURES LAUNCHES ASPORTUGUESAS

ASPORTUGUESAS are the world's first brand of cork flip-flops and also the first product to be developed by a startup at Amorim Cork Ventures. With a total of 11 models, this is an innovative collection that combines a wide array of colours and bold patterns, for a casual, yet sophisticated, style which combines the benefits of the comfort and strength of a cork sole, with cork's ecofriendly characteristics.

According to Nuno Barroca, CORTICEIRA AMORIM's Deputy Chairman, "This is a collection that brings together all the attributes that Amorim Cork Ventures has identified as priorities for its commitment to new business - cork used as a differentiating element and a product, with international scope, that fills a gap in the market."

ASPORTUGUESAS has a strong Portuguese DNA, resulting from incubation, since December 2014, of the company ECOCHIC, run by the entrepreneur Pedro Abrantes, who explains that "The opportunity to work with Corticeira Amorim and to benefit from its comprehensive expertise, both in terms of knowledge of the raw material and distribution capacity, was decisive for the successful development of ASPORTUGUESAS, which offers numerous benefits compared to solutions that currently exist in the market."

The tag-line, Egofriendly Footwear, reinforces the attributes of the brand – a differentiated proposal of summer footwear, that introduces the glamour of cork flip-flops, which are perfectly suited to casual and social contexts, and are both "eco-friendly" and "ego-friendly", enabling their wearers to be impeccably dressed on any occasion.

Aimed at both men and women, ASPORTUGUESAS use cork as their main raw material, with an innovative design of the sole and a more ergonomic and comfortable strap, which provides greater resistance and comfort, and better grip on wet roads. ASPORTUGUESAS are already available via the brand's website -[www.asportuguesas.shoes](http://www.asportuguesas.shoes) – with prices varying between €26.90 and €39.90. ASPORTUGUESAS have touch, texture and glamour and will leave their mark, in the best sense of the word.



# TIPSY, BY KEIJI TAKEUCHI, INCLUDED IN CORTICEIRA AMORIM'S MATERIA COLLECTION

TIPSY is the latest item produced for Corticeira Amorim's MATERIA collection – a collection of original cork objects that interact in a fluid and functional way with everyday life. Designed by Japanese designer Keiji Takeuchi, the new wine support, with a minimalist aesthetic, achieves a balance between art and functionality and takes advantage of the unique characteristics of cork, in particular its tactile appeal.

Keiji Takeuchi, the Japanese designer who heads the Naoto Fukusawa studio in Italy, explains the background to the development of this item: "The concept of TIPSY is based on the typical atmosphere of a dinner party between friends, and the moment of opening a bottle of wine. I felt that the most important



thing would be to design an item that simultaneously highlights the bottle and would be consistent with the mood of these events." In relation to the chosen material, the designer added: "It was intuitive, I immediately realized that TIPSY had to be made in cork. Firstly, there is a long-standing relationship between wine and cork, so that the association was inevitable. Furthermore, when transported to a design object, cork has a natural warmth and a unique tactile appeal which were characteristics that fascinated me the first time that I went to Portugal to learn more about the cork oak forests and this raw material."

TIPSY is the 24th object to be included in the MATERIA collection, a project curated by Experimentadesign, that was first launched during the 2011 Milan Furniture Fair, at a time when the role and relevance of cork as a premium raw material for interior design had not yet been fully recognized. With the development of this individual wine support, Keiji Takeuchi joins a prestigious group of designers who have accepted CORTICEIRA AMORIM's challenge to take part in the MATERIA collection, including the Portuguese designers, Daniel Caramelo, Fernando Brizio, Filipe Alarcão, Miguel Vieira Baptista, Marco Sousa Santos and Pedrita and the international designers, Big Game, Inga Sempé, James Irvine, Nendo and Raw Edges.

Tipsy will be available for sale from April in museum shops, and home and furniture design stores, at the suggested retail price of € 29.90.





## EXPANDED CORK AGGLOMERATE USED IN FLOATING HOUSE

Amorim Isolamentos is one of the partners of the project FloatWing, developed in partnership with ITeCons, Constálica and Friday, that has created a model floating house, now launched on the market as an innovative tourism concept. The first model developed is currently located in the Alqueva dam, and may be rented for a city-break. The house may be moved to different holiday destinations.

Having been conceived from a perspective of energy and environmental sustainability, autonomy and mobility, the house may be used as a primary residence or as a secondary residence, for longer or shorter stays, or via a rental scheme, as a bungalow or hotel suite.

The floating house has floor heating that allows heating of the interiors during the winter and also has cold water circulation in the ceiling for cooling during the warmer seasons. The mobile structure offers every modern comfort and is 100% environmentally friendly, including a water treatment system, photovoltaic panels for energy production and solar panels for water heating. The insulation of the house was achieved with expanded cork agglomerate from Amorim Isolamentos, applied on the floor, ceiling and between partitions, thus also contributing to the environmental nature envisioned for this new space.

## MDFACHADA USED IN THE INTERIOR COVERINGS OF MUDA, PORTO'S NEWEST BAR

MUDA is a new bar and restaurant, which recently opened in Porto's historic centre. Situated on the city street that has the highest number of bars per square metre, this is an ideal space, specially made to foster ideas, according to the bar's owner Joel Azevedo, "for those looking for more relaxed environments. With MUDA we wanted to create a place where people could eat high-quality snacks until late at night."

Housed in a former textiles building, now fully rehabilitated, MUDA has a very high ceiling, and is divided into two floors, where the expanded cork agglomerate, MDFachada, from Amorim Isolamentos has been applied on the interior walls or ceilings. In the opinion of Joel Azevedo "Cork, is the right choice as a covering because it offers several advantages; both in economic terms, thermal, acoustic and noise insulation and also as a decoration material, because in addition to being aesthetically beautiful it is easy to construct different textures and thus create different scenarios."







Corticeira Amorim, in conjunction with the National Association of Young Entrepreneurs (ANJE), and Aicep Portugal Global, was the official partner of the Portuguese representation in the International Fashion Showcase (IFS). Under this initiative, held in parallel with London Fashion Week, the largest area of Somerset House was covered with a ton of cork, that provided the backdrop to fashion designers' most recent works.

Inspired by the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the iconic work, "Utopia", by Sir Thomas More, the 2016 edition of IFS presents sustainability as the greatest paradigm of the modern age. The IFS is curated by Miguel Flor, coordinator of BLOOM Portugal Fashion, for whom this partnership makes perfect sense given that Corticeira Amorim "in Portugal, is the company that offers the best work in creating a sustainable, ecofriendly environment". "Through a cork installation, we aim to draw attention to ecologically and socially sustainable creation, since this natural raw material has unrivalled sustainability credentials and does not interfere with the balance of ecosystems," he added.

The project involved placing Wicanders Dekwall® coverings, combined with the application of expanded cork agglomerate solutions and composite agglomerates, both with black tonalities, on the ground and support for the mannequins who gave life to the creations by young Portuguese designers. The avant-garde art installation, designed by Miguel Bento – whose clients include Hermès, Hugo Boss, Jean Paul Gautier, Adidas, Salvatore Ferragamo, Selfridges and Harrods – invokes a brutalist architectural style, aligned with the challenge launched to the designers, Estelita Mendonça HIBU, KLAR and Pedro Neto to reuse materials and develop new techniques.



"Sustainability is one of the greatest current utopias", stated Miguel Flor, who chose cork to implement the project.

## GIERLINGS VELPOR PROMOTES NEW COLLECTION AT HEIMTEXTIL

Gierlings Velpor participated in the 2016/2017 edition of Heimtextil, in Frankfurt, the world's largest textile decoration fair, where it presented two velvet collections - a classic, cotton based line and another organic line, developed with wool and linen compositions. The collections once again include digital prints, and have been well received in the market.

Gierlings Velpor's promotional strategy is primarily targeted to the business areas of textile retailers and the Contract segment. The collections have generated major interest both from traditional customers, and fabric producers who are interested in introducing velvet into their product ranges, with special emphasis on products with a fire-retardant finish, or jacquards with their own design.

This event, considered by exhibitors and visitors to be the annual starting point for the definition of collections and projects, was dedicated this year to the theme of Well-being 4.0, and included 3,000 exhibitors and 70,000 visitors from 137 countries.



## ALMA GÉMEA, KORKO SELECTION AND MATERIA IN AMBIENTE – THE SHOW 2016

The collections Alma Gémea, Korko Selection and Materia were showcased in Ambiente – The Show 2016, the most important international consumer goods trade fair, which was held in Frankfurt between 12 and 16 February.

In an edition dedicated to the theme of sustainability and the way to combine design, innovation and the future, the participation by Amorim Cork Composites – whose brands share these same values – valued cork as a premium raw material for interior design projects.

Taking advantage of the strong tactile appeal of this natural raw material, the company highlighted cork in the structure of its stand, which was a decisive factor in order to attract visitors' attention to cork's unique qualities and also to highlight the different consumer goods collections from Amorim Cork Composites. The trade show received more than 137,000 professionals from more than 140 countries, from different areas and business sectors, who learnt more about the next global interior design trends.





# CORK FLOOR USED IN THE NEW GENERATION OF ALFA PENDULAR TRAINS

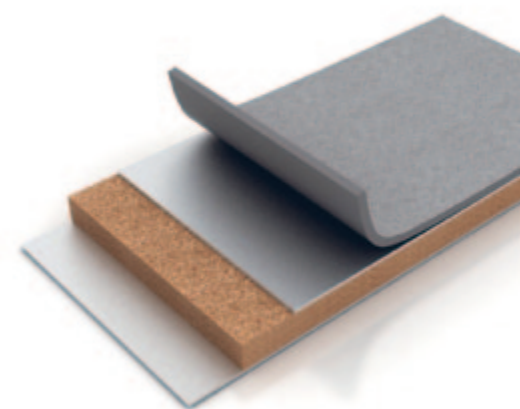
AluCORK® flooring, from Amorim Cork Composites, will equip the next generation of high speed trains from CP – Comboios de Portugal. The project that was presented earlier this year by the railway equipment maintenance company, Empresa de Manutenção de Equipamento Ferroviário S.A., foresees overall refurbishment of the ten trains included in the fleet of the Alfa Pendular service, in order to optimize passenger comfort and safety, and increase the trains' energy efficiency.

Weighing about 40% lower – in comparison with comparable alternative thicknesses available in the market – the AluCORK® system will make it possible to reduce energy consumption and expenses for this type of high-speed trains, thus constituting a more advantageous option in environmental and economic terms.

Produced using an innovative technique, which comprises a composite agglomerate of low weight cork, CORECORK™, coated with aluminium alloy layers, AluCORK® is an option that is specifically designed to meet the needs of the transport industry, with the added value of being suited to the different structural characteristics, dimensions, and thermal and acoustic insulation requirements of each project.

The characteristics of the material, allied to the possibility of adapting the thickness of the CORECORK™ core - between 20 and 30 mm – and in special cases, of the aluminium layers, make this floor a benchmark solution for the transport industry. The end result comprises a modular construction, based on the interconnection of various AluCORK® panels, that is subsequently coupled to the carriage's structure.

The intervention process involves an investment of 18 million Euros and will take about three months, for each of the ten Alfa Pendular trains.



## SOCIAL PROJECT TO RECYCLE 2 MILLION WINE CORKS IN GERMANY

The sustainable project "Korken für Kork" created by the social institution Diakonie Kork Epilepsiezentrum, has made it possible to collect and recycle 2 million cork stoppers, while promoting the social integration of persons with special needs, with support from Amorim Cork Deutschland.

This initiative is made possible with the contribution of Corticeira Amorim's clients who return the wine corks after use. Over the last four years these corks have been transformed into new products - such as memo boards or insulation panels. This process includes the involvement of persons with mental and physical disabilities, who cooperate in the workshops of Diakonie Kork Epilepsiezentrum - one of the best known centres for epilepsy patients in Germany.

In the opinion of Gert Reis, manager of Amorim Cork Deutschland, this is "a valuable contribution to reducing waste and preservation of this natural material, which highlights the sustainable properties of cork and, above all, a way to proudly contribute to community development".



## TOP SERIES® STOPPER USED IN THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE BOTTLE OF AMONTILLADO VIEJO

The Barbadillo group, one of the world's most prestigious wineries, according to the World Association of Specialist Writers and Journalists in Wines and Liquors, recently presented a Amontillado Viejo Versos 1891 in London, with a premium packaging, developed by brands from the luxury segment, including Corticeira Amorim.

Sourced from a barrel dedicated to Manuel Barbadillo in 1891, the unique fortified sherry from Jerez, with a complex flavour and great intensity, denoting its quality and aging, is a limited edition of 100 personalised bottles, with a neck that has been polished inside using a diamond drill and an exclusive Top Series® capsulated stopper, from Corticeira Amorim, made to measure, with the edges hand-painted with platinum. The Amontillado Viejo Versos 1891 will be distributed by Fell's in the UK, priced at 10,000 euros per bottle

## HYDROCORK PRESENTED IN NORWAY...

Amorim Revestimentos, in collaboration with RBI Interior AS, recently launched the Hydrocork collection, from Wicanders, in Norway. The innovative waterproof cork flooring was presented in the Bygg Reis Deg building materials exhibition, in Oslo. The Wicanders® portfolio in Scandinavia, which also includes the Artcomfort and Corkcomfort ranges, formed a stand that captured the attention of over 41,000 visitors who attended this leading exhibition.



## ... AND HIGHLIGHTED IN THE SHOWROOM OF THORGRIMSSON & CO IN ICELAND

The Wicanders® collections are highlighted in the showroom of Thorgrimsson & Co, the company responsible for the distribution of the brand in Iceland. The space has been completely renovated and is dedicated exclusively to cork flooring, with a strong focus on the Hydrocork range, which is being announced on national television and is expected to revolutionize the flooring market in this Nordic country.





# AMORIM REVESTIMENTOS PRESENTS NEW WICANDERS FLOORING SOLUTIONS IN DOMOTEX

Amorim Revestimentos presented their latest collections: Authentica and Reclaimed, from Wicanders, in Domotex, in Hanover – the prestigious international tapestry and flooring trade fair, which reveals global trends in the sector.

Conceived under the motto “Why only fit in when it was created to stand out”, the Authentica collection presents itself as truly revolutionary solution in the flooring segment. With a composition that provides for two cork layers, Authentica constitutes a paradigm shift in this type of flooring. In total - and given the incorporation of a 2.7 mm secondary cork underlay - the core of the flooring contemplates 4mm thickness of this natural material, thus making it a more environmentally friendly option than all other available solutions in this market segment.

However, the benefits resulting from the introduction of a new layer of cork are not limited to its “green” flooring credentials. The tests that preceded the launch of the collection identify a clear improvement in performance, particularly in terms of thermal resistance, with about 18% gains, and noise reduction in the order of 6%. Inspired by ecodesign trends, which favour the use of ecological and recyclable materials, Reclaimed [Visuals with a story to tell] is a range that is fully conceived using wood and stone visuals, which highlight a typical appearance of restoration and unique items, which bring their own narrative.

Comprised of four wood visuals and three stone visuals, Reclaimed is the latest line in the Artcomfort collection, which is distinguished by its ability to replicate a stone or wood visual in a cork floor, with unprecedented precision. The innovation of this collection was recognized by the organisers of Domotex, who included it in the event’s Innovation space.



## BRITISH PRESS PRAISES THE BEAUTY OF QUINTA NOVA

The Douro is one of the world's most admired and cherished regions, due to its beauty, charm and tranquility, as noted in the prestigious British magazine, House & Gardens and the Independent and Daily Telegraph newspapers. In this context, the Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo has been highlighted as one of the key attractions of this tourist destination.

These articles have been written at a time when the number of British tourists visiting the region has increased significantly and pays tribute to the Douro and its wines, highlighting the vineyards and unparalleled and irresistible sites that are described as constituting "dramatic scenery".

## POMARES: 2015 VINTAGE ALREADY AVAILABLE

Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo has just launched the new Pomares Branco 2015 and Pomares Moscatel 2015 wines, which are awaited with great expectation due to the high scores of (88/100 points) recently attributed by Mark Squires (e-Robert Parker) to the 2014 vintage.



### Pomares Branco

Aroma of white-fleshed fruits and gooseberry, with hints of mint-spearmint. A silky texture supported by an integrated acidity and balanced viscosity. An intense and smooth structure with a long finish in the mouth.

### Pomares Moscatel

Exuberance, intensity, joy, the Moscatel Galego grape variety in a mature, elegant and tense profile; Fine texture, linear structure and intense gravity. Very balanced with a highly persistent and precise finish in the mouth.

Further information at  
<http://www.quintanova.com>.



## QUINTA NOVA WINES, BY JANCIS ROBINSON

In its most recent tasting of Portuguese wines, the British team of Jancis Robinson, the UK's top wine critic, highlighted three wines from Quinta Nova, all with ratings above 16 on a scale of 1-20.



In this analysis, Quinta Nova Reserva Tinto 2013 was given a rating of 16.5 points, and Mirabilis Grande Reserva Branco 2014 and Quinta Nova Grande Reserva Tinto 2013, were both given 17 points.



## “250 YEARS OF STORIES” FROM QUINTA NOVA WINS iF DESIGN AWARD

The book, “250 Anos de Histórias” (250 Years of Stories) was the winner of the most recent edition of the iF Design Award, one of the world’s most important and prestigious design awards. Coordinated by OMDesign, and written by José Braga-Amaral, with a preface by Bento Amaral, the book won in the “Communication-Publications” category, having been recognised for its objectives, since it was developed in order to immortalize the values and essence of the Quinta Nova estate, in the context of its 250th anniversary.

The iF DESIGN AWARD is one of the world’s most important design awards. The Quinta Nova book was selected from a group of 5000 projects, from more than 50 countries. The award ceremony took place during the ‘Munich Creative Business Week’ in Munich.

The book “250 Years of Stories” thereby receives another award, having already won awards in 2015, in two other renowned international competitions – winning the Gold prize in the Creativity International Graphic Design Awards and the Silver prize in the International Design Awards.

## THE BEST OF THE YEAR

The beginning of the year always brings with it many novelties, specifically in relation to the wines that have received awards during the previous year, in the main specialist magazines.



Each year the Revista de Vinhos distinguishes the industry’s finest wines. In the most recent edition of its award ceremony, the Quinta Nova estate once again received several accolades for its brand, including the fact that its wines, Mirabilis Grande Reserva Tinto 2013 and Quinta Nova Vintage Porto 2013, were ranked amongst the “Best of the Year in 2015”. Both wines had already been highlighted in the magazine’s wine tasting panels for their high levels of quality.

In addition to these awards, the magazine included Quinta Nova’s other three wines in the “Best Buys for 2015” category, for their excellent price/quality ratio: Pomares Branco 2014 Quinta Nova LBV Port 2009 and Clã Moscatel Douro. A few days later, the wine Mirabilis Grande Reserva Branco 2014 won the Competition “Top 10 Portuguese Wines”, organized by the magazine, Wine – Essência do Vinho.

The winning wines were selected by a panel of more than 30 judges from 13 different countries, including journalists, bloggers, sommeliers and other experts. In this test a total of 53 wines were evaluated in a blind tasting (31 reds, 13 fortified and 9 whites) preselected by the WINE magazine, “taking into account the best ratings attributed by the publication’s tasting panel for wines evaluated in 2015,” explains the organization.

# NDtech<sup>®</sup>

*The world's first natural cork with a non-detectable TCA guarantee*

