

# about amorim

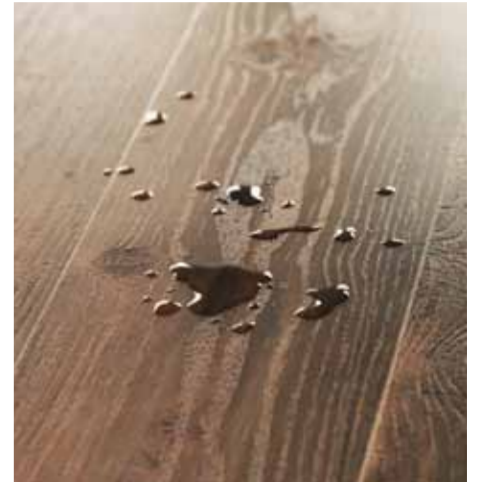


# about amorim



## Amorim and O-I unveil Helix, an innovative cork-glass wine packaging solution

Helix combines an ergonomically-designed cork stopper and a glass bottle with an internal thread finish in the neck, creating a high performing and sophisticated solution. Helix therefore combines all the benefits of cork and glass – quality, sustainability and premium image – with the advantages of easy opening and reinsertion of the stopper.



## Amorim launches Hydrocork, the first low thickness, water resistant cork floating product

Made up of a low thickness agglomerated cork composite core, this new flooring offers all the benefits of natural cork and is now improved with a superior water resistance performance, thus avoiding the risk of a possible floor swelling, and is easy to install.



## METAMORPHOSIS – broadening the horizons of cork

METAMORPHOSIS is the result of a research and development project on the potential of cork. Pritzker Prize winners, Álvaro Siza, Eduardo Souto de Moura and Herzog & de Meuron were invited to participate in the project, along with celebrated architects, Alejandro Aravena, Amanda Levete, João Luís Carrilho da Graça and Manuel Aires Mateus as well as three top product designers, James Irvine, Jasper Morrison and Naoto Fukasawa.



**Inspiro, the state-of-the-art Siemens metro**  
Inspiro, the surface metro recently launched in Poland by Siemens, is the most modern and sustainable in its class. With a modern design, cutting-edge technology and an environment-friendly concept, it is one of the lightest metros in the world as a result of the installation of the innovative AluCORK cork flooring, which contributes to a 30% reduction of the carriages weight.



## Amorim flooring at the Victoria & Albert Museum

Amorim and the design and architecture studio –FAT– Fashion Architecture Taste, worked together for the first time at the London Design Festival. The project was developed from a natural cork floor and the final result was on display on the bridge over the Victoria & Albert (V&A) Museum Medieval and Renaissance Galleries, the event's main venue.

11 industrial plants raw-materials

19 industrial plants cork solutions

42 distribution companies

11 joint ventures

248 main agents

46 patents recently submitted

34 units with FSC certification

8,000,000 sq. meters of cork flooring sold annually

7,500,000 € invested in R&D and innovation yearly

145 years leading the cork industry

560,000,000 € of annual turnover

4,000,000,000 cork stoppers sold annually

## a sustainable leadership

Amorim leads an exemplary economic activity in terms of sustainable development. By promoting the cyclical harvest of the cork, without ever damaging the cork oak trees, the company makes the cork oak forest viable, a natural and renewable resource, with endless environmental, economic and social benefits. Cork oak forests are natural CO<sub>2</sub> sinks, they regulate the hydrological cycle, protect against erosion and fire and foster a biodiversity which is on a par with regions such as the Amazon forest.

It is the harvest of cork that maintains the vitality of cork oak forest, enabling millions of people to continue to live in areas prone to desertification.

## operating in more than 100 countries

Pioneering and competitive, Amorim operates in over one hundred countries in all continents, including all the great wine producing countries from the old continent to new markets. The constant discovery of new possibilities for cork, on par with its application in endless solutions for various areas of business, has motivated expansion into less traditional markets. Nowadays, Amorim owns over eighty companies, around thirty industrial units and supplies over two hundred agents. It exports 96% of its production, mainly to the European and USA markets, to more than twenty thousand direct clients.

## spearheading the drive for innovation

As a result of an unparalleled investment in R&D and Innovation and of technological advances, Amorim continuously delivers to the market innovative cork solutions that comply the requirements of contemporary society and allow cork's unmatched technical performance to be enjoyed like never before.

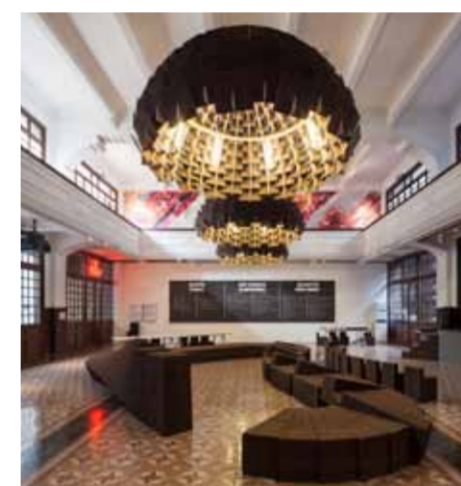
This positioning positively reflects on the more traditional sectors – stoppers, coverings, insulation, among others –, where it strengthens its differentiation and competitiveness, but also enhances the development of new business areas for cork, widening horizons and development prospects for the entire sector.

## cork oak – the portuguese national tree

With a lifespan of over 200 years, the cork oak tree (*Quercus Suber L.*) is a paradigm of sustainability, being the only oak species whose bark regenerates, acquiring a smoother texture following each harvest.

It takes each cork oak 25 years before it can be harvested for the first time and it is only from the third harvesting (at 43 years of age) that the cork has the high standard of quality required for producing cork stoppers.

At the end of 2011, the cork oak was unanimously established as Portugal's National Tree.



## Istanbul Design Biennial highlights Portuguese cork

Cork was the centrepiece of this major international design and architecture event, an initiative supported by Amorim. The overall exhibition space was greatly enhanced by the presence of cork, used in numerous innovative and creative items, such as lighting and furniture.



## Mercedes-Benz and Garrett McNamara create a cork surfboard

Mercedes-Benz Portugal in partnership with Amorim developed a new surfboard made entirely out of cork intended for the Hawaiian surfer Garrett McNamara. The selection of this sustainable product was clear to Garrett: "the virtues of cork such as its high durability and flexibility make cork surfboards sufficiently strong to withstand the impact of huge waves."



## New Amorim's composite material takes cork to another space project

Amorim Cork Composites, Critical Materials, PIEP and ISQ are part of a Portuguese consortium responsible for the design of a crushable thermal protection system (TPS) for the Earth Re-entry Capsule (ERC), of the European Space Agency. The new solution in progress is based on an innovative cork composite material allowing the space shuttle to successfully adapt to the entry into orbit and subsequent descent to the planet's surface.

## amorim

Amorim is the world's largest producer of cork solutions and the most international of Portuguese companies. It leads the whole sector, making a crucial contribution to the economy and innovation of the cork industry. With its origins dating back to 1870, the company soon became aware of the endless potential of this 100% natural raw material, transforming it into the sustainable choice for a modern, informed society, aware of the environmental problems that result from its consumption related choices.

Amorim leads an ambitious project to discover new and unexpected applications for cork. It boosts partnerships with renowned centres of knowledge and industry leaders. It makes unparalleled investments in innovation and design, developing a portfolio of high added value products and solutions, which anticipate market trends and surpass the expectations of some of the most demanding industries in the world.

## cutting-edge solutions

Our signature is present in the cork stoppers of the best wines as in the most unlikely everyday solutions: flooring and insulation solutions for construction; state-of-the-art applications for transportation projects, such as railway and spacecraft; oil absorbents and solvents... Within the panorama of contemporary creation, Amorim challenges scientists, engineers, architects and designers across the world to explore the endless potential of cork, pushing the boundaries of invention.