

## CULTURE

The connection between cork stoppers and wine dates back to the 17th century. Well into the 21st century, the world's best Vintners s continue to prefer cork stoppers, while the iconic pop of a cork being pulled from the bottle remains an indispensable ritual for the true connoisseur. A detail which makes all the difference.

## NATURE

The cork oak forest is home to over 160 species of birds, 24 species of reptiles and amphibians and 37 species of mammals, some of them at high risk of extinction. Plant diversity can be as high as 135 species per 1,000 m2.

## FUTURE

Continuous enhancements quality improvements are top priorities for the cork industry. Extensive investment in Research and Development, applying cutting edge technology to the various production stages and processes, have paved the way for increasingly innovative and surprising products, with a potential that few could have imagined.



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## TRUST IN KNOWLEDGE

Cork has protected and inspired human beings for millennia. The best practices for its harvesting have been handed down from generation to generation, without requiring the cutting down of a single cork oak – a species with an average life span of 200 years, which can be stripped 15 to 18 times in that period.

## TRUST IN QUALITY

For centuries, cork stoppers have been the closure par excellence for wine, preferred by over 70% of producers worldwide and used in more than 12 billion bottles every year.

The production of plastic closures releasee ten times more CO2 than cork stoppers, while the emissions caused by aluminium caps are 24 times greater.



CORK. CULTURE, NATURE, FUTURE.

## TRUST IN BIODIVERSITY

The cork oak forest is one of 35 biodiversity sanctuaries worldwide and home to 221 species of animals, including some of the world's most endangered. In addition, it helps control erosion, regulate the water cycle and fight desertification and global warming.

## TRUST IN SUSTAINABILITY

Thanks to cork oaks and the growing number of cork products on the market, sustainable development has been shown not just to be possible, but to have actually been in place for many years. For once, nature and people are able to coexist in harmony.

According to a study published by the Lisbon School of Agriculture, the cork oak forest has the capacity to capture around 6 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare each year, which means that the Mediterranean cork oak forests are responsible for capturing almost 14 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

## TRUST IN THE FUTURE

500 million euros have been invested in research and development in the last 10 years alone to make cork one of the most closely studied and best understood raw materials in history. The result of this investment is plain to see in high-tech materials for the aerospace industry, compound polymers for the transport sector, top-level sports equipment and leading works of architecture and design.

## TRUST IN PEOPLE

The cork industry today represents a social, environmental and economic mainstay for millions of people, often in regions where cork is the primary source of income for many families. In Portugal alone, the cork oak and associated forest systems have given rise to 8,000 direct jobs, more than 600 companies, over 6,000 jobs in the forestry industry and millions of indirect jobs related to other products originating from the cork oak forest.

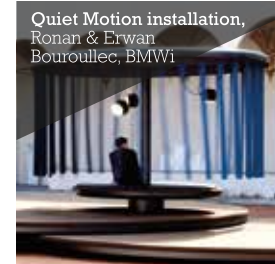
Recognition of the unique characteristics of cork has opened the door to an endless range of applications.



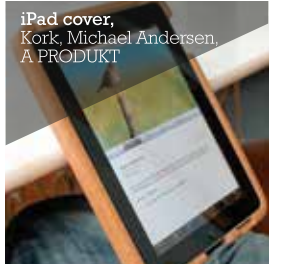
Sandals,  
Stella McCartney



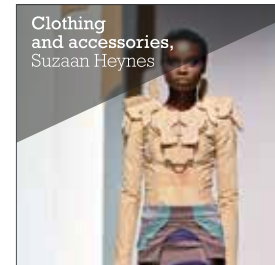
Stools,,  
Metamorphosis,  
Alvaro Siza



Quiet Motion installation,  
Ronan & Erwan  
Bouroullec, BMWi



iPad cover,  
Kork; Michael Andersen,  
A PRODUKT



Clothing  
and accessories,  
Suzaan Heynes



Outer covering,  
Herdade da Pimenta,  
Portugal



Floor,  
Metro Inspiro,  
Siemens



LeBron X NSW  
Cork Edition, Nike



Salt and pepper shakers,  
Materia, Nendo



Wine

There are 163 patents and 2,000 brands referring to cork registered with the INPI (Portuguese industrial property institute)