



Sustainability

The cork tree is a truly remarkable tribute to the wonder that is our world. Due to its continuous self-regenerative properties and longevity, the cultivation and harvesting of cork is sustainable and does not compromise the environment that surrounds it.



Cork is the outer layer of the Cork Oak and is harvested without causing harm to the tree. To the contrary, the harvesting of cork on a regular multi-year cycle enhances the life and health of the tree. Nothing is wasted when it comes to the cork tree: its fruit, leaves, and natural acids, all play a part in guaranteeing a sustainable eco system for the surrounding areas.

Portugal and the Portuguese people have long recognized the value and the importance of preserving this historic tree which is found almost exclusively in the Mediterranean region. The cork tree has been legally protected since the Middle Ages. In Portugal today, the Cork Oak enjoys many more protections and safety regulations as a result of the understanding of its importance to the environment and to the Portuguese economy. Laws and regulations are established to protect this natural resource across the more than 736.000 ha (hectares) of cork tree forest. Portugal is the leading country in the cork industry worldwide. It accounts for more than 100,000 tons of cork produced annually, representing more than half of all cork production on the planet.

Currently, in Portugal, the cork “community” includes more than 670 registered companies. Together, it’s estimated they employed almost 10,000 people, a number that continues grow. Portuguese cork is used for cork stoppers for wine bottling, cork insulation for building and construction, cork wallpaper and tiles for interior design, and cork fabrics for fashion, home goods, and upholstery. Portuguese cork companies are leading the way as the world recognizes the importance of how cork is perceived and used all around the world

Portugal is the worldwide leader in the manufacture and export of cork products, with over 1 billion euros of cork products exported annually, and with the values growing every year. Cork exports represent 2% of all Portuguese exported goods.

PortugaliaCork's Promise

This recognition of the centrality of cork to the people and culture of Portugal, means that PortugaliaCork is committed to its support for the cork industry's growth in a sustainable and strategic manner. PortugaliaCork believes the best approach to achieve this goal is by committing to the following goals:

100% Portuguese cork

Our commitment to Portuguese cork guarantees economic support and livelihood for thousands of rural workers and their families across our country while maintaining a strict quality standard for our products and consumers. The Portuguese corks’ seal of quality is of paramount importance to us, and should be to you as the consumer. Whether from our own cultivated forests or from other trustworthy national partners, our goal is to harvest 100% authentic, genuine Portuguese cork from certified quality-oriented farms and forests.

100% Sustainable Provenance

Cork tree forests are ecologically and economically sustainable and support extraordinary biodiversity. They help regulate water resources and play a vital role in preserving many species of flora and fauna. These forests make up one of the richest ecosystems in the world. Portugal accounts for at least 34% of the global cork oak forest area. The Portuguese government recognizes cork forest sites as extremely important for biodiversity. Our commitment is to contribute to the reforestation and wildlife conservation programs available through public and private sources. This includes developing reforestation efforts on an area of over 500,000 square meters of land each year. The PortugaliaCork forest area will be a perfect place to start implementation of these measures. The more control we have over our sourcing materials, trees, and ecosystems, the more we feel confident they will be properly protected and cared for. We aim to be at the forefront of environmental preservation in our industry and create new standards of eco-friendly practices. By 2025 – 2027 It is our determination to rely 100% on electrical power generated from renewable resources.