



PORTUGALIACORK



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Sustainability

The cork tree is a truly remarkable tree due to its continuous self-regenerating properties and environmental benefits. Its natural longevity allows it to produce high-quality cork sustainably without compromising the environment that surrounds it.



Cork (the outer skin layer of the tree) can be extracted without causing any harm to the tree. Nothing is considered waste 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.

- What is cork bark
- Learn more about harvesting

Portugal and the Portuguese people have long recognized the value and the importance of preserving this historic Mediterranean tree. The cork tree has been protected legally since the Middle Ages. In modern times it enjoys many more protections and safety regulations due to the understanding of its importance to the environment and economy. Portuguese Local and National Legislation help ensure our heritage is preserved and maintained. 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 half of all world cork production).

In 2016 in Portugal, the cork “community” accounted for more than 670 registered companies. Together, it’s estimated they employed more than 9000 people, a number that continues growing in recent years. Including such different areas as cork stoppers for wine bottling, cork insulation for building and construction, cork wallpaper and tiles for interior design, and cork fabrics for fashion and upholstery, Portuguese cork companies are leading the way 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.

Our approach

Taking all this into account, Portugaliacork wants to support the cork industry sustainably and strategically. We believe the best approach to achieve this is aiming for the following goals:

100% Portuguese cork

This guarantees economic support and livelihood for thousands of rural populations across our country while maintaining a strict quality standard for our products and consumers. The Portuguese corks’ seal of quality is essential to you, and to us.

Whether from our own cultivated forests or other trustworthy national partners, the goal is to harvest 100% authentic, genuine cork from certified quality-oriented farms and forests.

100% Sustainable Provenance

Cork tree forests are ecologically and economically sustainable. They help regulate water resources and play vital roles in preserving several species of fauna and flora. These forests make up one of the richest ecosystems in the world. Portugal accounts for about 34% of the global cork oak forest area. The **Natura 2000** preservation program classifies these forest sites as extremely important for biodiversity.

Our overall commitment is to contribute to the reforestation and wildlife conservation programs available. This includes developing reforestation efforts on an area of over 500,000 square feet of land. Portugaliacork forest area will be a perfect place to start implementing 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 – 2030, we expect to rely on 100% electrical energy generated from renewable resources.

Sources:

<https://www.apcor.pt>