

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2021



CASA RELVAS  
ALENTEJO | PORTUGAL

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# 1

## **MESSAGE** FROM THE PRODUCER



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER

Casa Relvas is a 20-year-old company. Its mission is to continue the family tradition of working in agriculture over five generations.

It is clear to us that the fundamental criteria that determines our decisions at Casa Relvas is to guarantee the future, respecting nature, our culture and traditions.

Therefore, sustainability policy is one of the pillars of our activity.

In addition to respect for nature, reflected in the policies of preservation of biodiversity, balanced agricultural practices, recycling, reuse of the winery's wastewater for irrigation and significant investments in native forests, namely cork oak forests, the sustainability policy is associated with a sense of commitment to all the people who work at Casa Relvas in the wineries and in the fields, whose dedication and passion, together with the unique terroir of Alentejo, are the reason for the quality of the wines we have been producing throughout the years.

Cooperation with social solidarity institutions in the communities where we develop our activities has also been a constant practice of our company, through the financing of multiple initiatives, as well as a close collaboration with local suppliers, to whom we always try to give priority.

One of our objectives to ensure the future is to seek to always have positive results, in line with the market, as well as a balanced financial structure, enabling us to make the necessary investments to ensure our competitiveness, and to provide security guarantees in relation to Casa Relvas for all stakeholders, namely to our workers, suppliers and financial institutions.

The sustainability policy we have followed is certified by multiple systems, several of them proposed by some of our customers, and all those who work at Casa Relvas are proud that the results of the audits have always been very positive.



*Alexandre Relvas*

Alexandre Relvas  
Founder

***It is clear to us that the fundamental criteria that determines our decisions at Casa Relvas is to guarantee the future, respecting nature, our culture and traditions.***

# 2

## CASA RELVAS



**CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
IS IN OUR NATURE.**



# CASA RELVAS

Casa Relvas began its activity in 1997, two years after Alexandre Relvas bought Herdade de São Miguel in Redondo, Alentejo. But the Relvas family tradition in the agricultural sector goes back five generations. It is this tradition, and the continuity of the recognized work developed by Alexandre Relvas in the food industry for over 30 years, which translates the "we can do it" attitude that is so deeply rooted in a young and dynamic team.

We are proud to take the best that the Alentejo wine industry has to offer to more than 30 countries. Quality wines to accompany every moment of life, recognized for their quality and consistency by specialized critics. Our family currently manages 268 hectares of vineyard, 900 hectares of forest, 292 hectares of olive grove and 270 hectares of almond grove.



## VISION

What motivates us to produce the Casa Relvas' wines everyday is the celebration of life. Our mission is to produce quality wines; wines that make a meal special, wines for celebrations, wines for meeting friends and wines for remembering the good times.

***Our family grew up connected to the land. it is the land that inspires us, and we want to pass it on to future generations.***





# 3

## SUSTAINABILITY AT CASA RELVAS

A landscape photograph showing a vibrant green field in the foreground. In the middle ground, there are several large, leafy trees. The background features a rolling hill covered in more trees and a small body of water on the right side. The sky is clear and blue.

**SOCIAL, ECONOMIC  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL.**



# SUSTAINABILITY AT CASA RELVAS

Our sustainability plan is based on these three important pillars:

- **Social**
- **Economic**
- **Environmental**



We believe that we will only succeed as a company in the future if we work these three pillars together.

Over the last 20 years, Casa Relvas has developed several projects to achieve sustainability goals.





# SUSTAINABILITY AT CASA RELVAS



This year we received the sustainable production certification! The sustainable production seal recognises producers in Alentejo that comply with more than 171 requirements contained in the Alentejo Wines Sustainability Programme, which we have been part of since 2015. The implementation of sustainable policies is an integral part of the pillars of the Casa Relvas' activity since its foundation, nearly two decades ago. In the field, we promote good soil management, reduced use of phytopharmaceuticals, the use of auxiliary organisms, preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, conservation and restoration of water lines, and the use of integrated and organic production methods. In the winery, energy efficiency and the rational use of water are priorities, as is the reduction of the waste produced. Promoting the dematerialization of processes, as well as the use of more sustainable products, such as cork, barrels and other materials from certified forests, are also practices encouraged at Casa Relvas. Training of employees is supported so that they also realise that the company's effort towards sustainability goes far beyond the vineyard or winery, accompanying them when they return to their families. Casa Relvas promotes continuous training, as well as programs associated with health and safety at work, the involvement of the whole team in strategic decisions and at the operational level, synergies between the winery and the surrounding community, and the leading role that the company has in the regional socio-economy. These approaches are part of the sustainability commitment developed by the team at Casa Relvas, a pioneer in the Sustainability Programme for Wines of the Alentejo and with one of the highest ratings (3.8 out of 4).

***"This certification shows that the philosophy we believe in and stand for - and practice - is the right path. We believe that this approach adds value to the product and the region on a national and international level, and this is what we work for every day in implementing sustainable practices in the various dimensions [social, environmental and economic] and so this step is extremely important for us as it recognises our commitment."***

Alexandre Relvas Jr  
(CEO)



# 4

## **SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**









**WE VALUE PEOPLE AND  
LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**



# SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

## WE VALUE PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

BECAUSE PEOPLE ALWAYS COME FIRST, WE PROMOTE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT, OFFER GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS TO OUR TEAM, CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW PROFESSIONALLY AND INVEST REGULARLY IN TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRAINING HOURS	% SALARY ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE SALARY	JOBS CREATED IN THE LAST 3 YEARS	DONATIONS TO LOCAL SOCIAL ENTITIES	JOB/COMPANY SATISFACTION
					
TOTAL 101	42H / Person	98%	51	10% OF PROFITS	VERY SATISFIED 84% SATISFIED 16%



# SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

## PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS



Suão is an association founded in 1998, created for the community development of the village of São Miguel de Machede in Évora. For many years we have cooperated with Suão in its various activities - visits to the winery for children and elderly people, sponsorship of local football teams and Senior University.



In 2003 we took part in the foundation of CADIn, the first Portuguese non-profit organization, fully dedicated to the treatment and study of neurodevelopmental disorders of children and young adults. Since then, we continue to fully support this institution, which has become a national reference.



We have been working with Cozinha com Alma since 2012. It is a take-away service where the profit from the meals sold to the general public allows them to subsidise the same meals to the Bolsa Família customer. In 2018 Casa Relvas became a "Parceiro com Alma", a certification aimed at recognising and valuing partners as active players in this social project of great impact.



By promoting various socio-cultural activities for children from poor families, Ludoteca das Fontainhas aims to respond effectively to the psychosocial needs of the local community, thus seeking to promote a healthier development path.



In 2018, we launched a scholarship for the children of the people working in the company. Our aim is to help finance their studies after compulsory schooling. We want to give these young adults the opportunity to continue their studies and to go to other cities if necessary.

# SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

## PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS



**Banco Alimentar**  
contra a fome

Banco Alimentar supplies charitable institutions operating in Portugal throughout the year. In addition to delivering free food to people in need, Banco Alimentar follows and shares the action of other institutions in the fight against social exclusion.



ASSOCIAÇÃO de BENEFICÊNCIA  
de PEDROGÃO do ALENTEJO

Associação de Beneficência de Pedrogão do Alentejo was founded on 29 December 1992, with the main objective of protecting citizens and families in their old age and disability. This entity is a non-profit private social solidarity institution (IPSS), which seeks to give expression to the moral duty of solidarity and justice between people, for the benefit and the sociocultural development of the local community.



**Comunidade  
Vida e Paz**  
Reconstruindo Sentidos de Vida.

Comunidade Vida e Paz's field of action is to help people who are socially excluded, economically disadvantaged and homeless, helping them to rebuild their social dignity. This association acts in the areas of fighting poverty, therapeutic recovery, social reintegration, raising awareness about drug addiction and social exclusion.



FUNDAÇÃO DE VEIROS  
A. NOSSA SENHORA DO PERPÉTUO SOCORRO

The main goals of the Fundação de Veiros are to welcome, educate, provide professional and personal training to children and young adults, and to contribute to the sustainable development of the community in which it operates through social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and training activities, among others.



# 5

## **ECONOMIC** SUSTAINABILITY

**OPERATE THE BUSINESS SO AS TO  
OBTAIN RESULTS THAT GUARANTEE THE  
FINANCING OF FUTURE INVESTMENTS.**

# ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

"Economic sustainability will only occur if all three pillars are working properly, in balance. In other words, a sustainable company is one that generates results while protecting the environment and improving the quality of life of the people with whom it has interactions."

For Casa Relvas, the concept of economic sustainability presupposes the goal of maintaining economic growth while respecting the community and the environment in which this economic growth occurs. It means operating the business in such a way as to guarantee results that allow future investments to be financed.

## EBITDA 2021



3,6 Me

## INVESTMENT IN THE LAST 3 YEARS



14,7 Me

## PURCHASES TO PORTUGUESE SUPPLIERS



90%

## SALARIES



2,2 Me





# ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

## KEY ELEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

<b>MONITORING &amp; CONTROL</b>	Regular internal and external audits. Ex: Deloitte, SMETA, Global G.A.P
<b>RELATIONSHIP WITH SUPPLIERS</b>	Compliance with payment deadlines agreed with suppliers. Development of long-term relationships with local suppliers, guaranteeing and promoting local employment.
<b>TRAINING &amp; PRODUCTIVITY</b>	Technical support and training of our grape suppliers. Cooperation with local universities. Offer of various training programmes for students and young technicians.
<b>SOCIAL CONCERNS</b>	Improve the quality of life of our employees. Offer the best working conditions. Average salary above the national average salary.
<b>MARKET</b>	Increase competitive advantage based in quality wines and value for money for our clients. Transparent and close communication with clients.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS</b>	Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), Cooperation with Eletrão, recycling center.
<b>INNOVATION</b>	Investment in water recycling and irrigation systems, Precision Farming (PA).
<b>FINANCING</b>	Strong and sustainable capital structure.





## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**



**WE SEEK HARMONY  
WITH NATURE.**



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## PRIORITIES

- CARBON FOOTPRINT
- SOILS
- WATER
- BIODIVERSITY



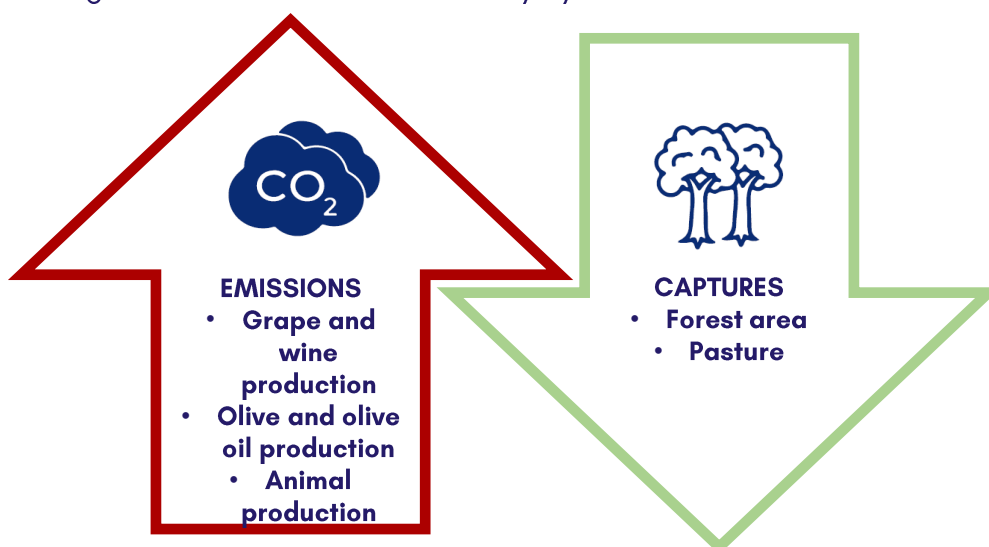


# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## CARBON NEUTRALITY

In the context of the objectives defined for the year of 2021, several actions were planned and adopted, allowing for a strong reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and an increased growth associated with the use of non-polluting resources.

Casa Relvas managed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2021.



### BENEFITS

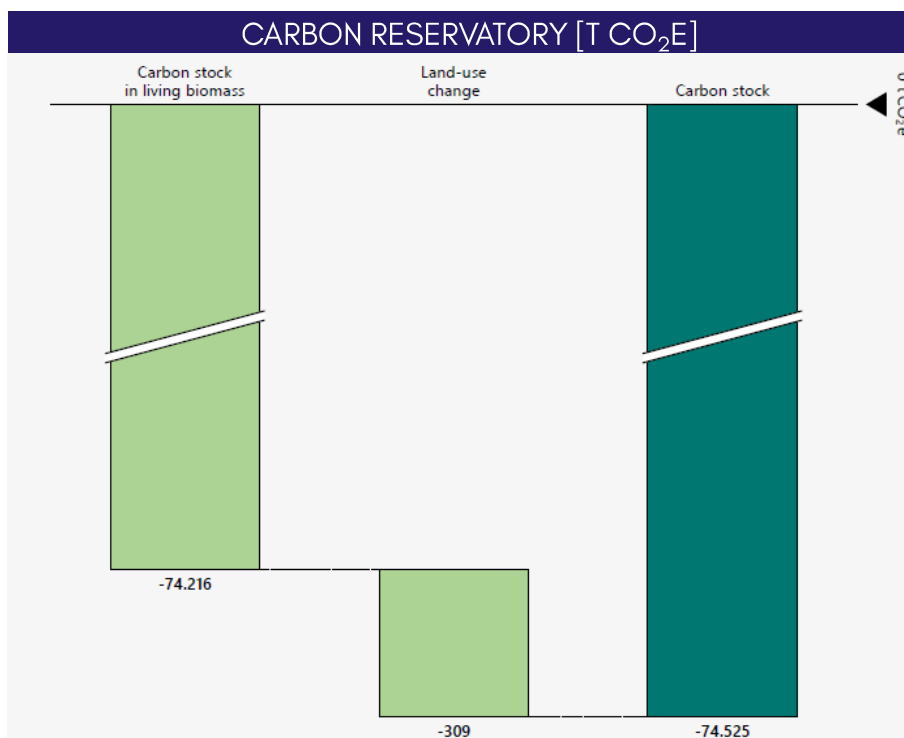
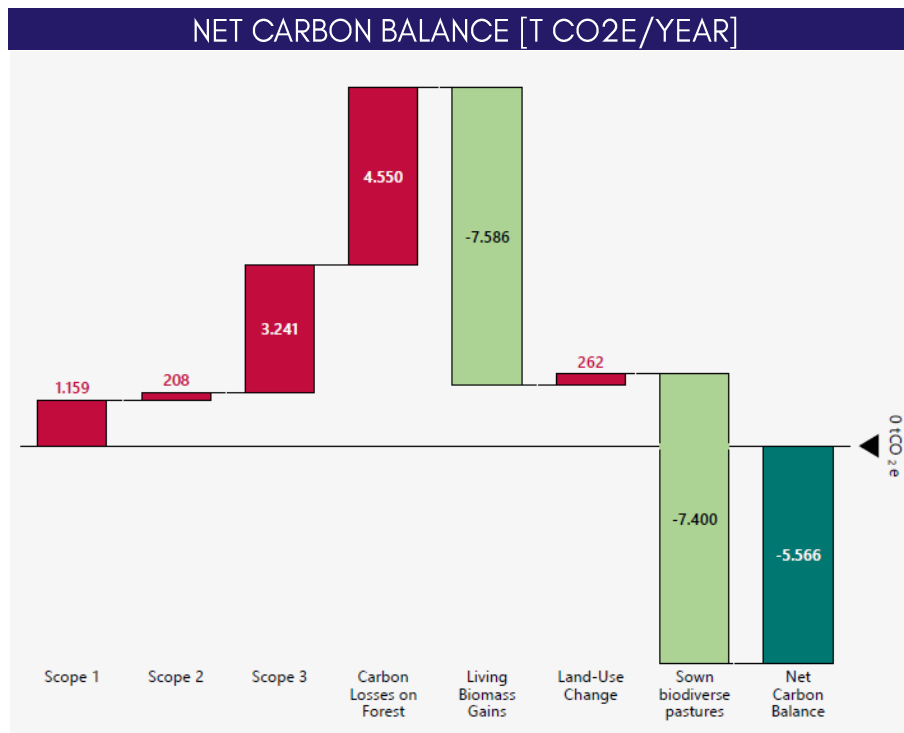
- Reduce emissions and increase removals
- Increase operational efficiency
- Communicate environmental performance
- Enhance forest and agricultural assets as climate change mitigation agents

### SCOPE

WINE	OLIVE OIL	FOREST	ANIMAL PROD.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grape production in owned and rented vineyards</li> <li>• Wine production in owned and rented cellars</li> <li>• Purchase of grapes and wine from third parties</li> <li>• Bottling and packaging of wine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olive production in own olive groves</li> <li>• Olive oil production in rented mills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation and maintenance of own stands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising and fattening animals for sale</li> <li>• Permanent pasture</li> </ul>

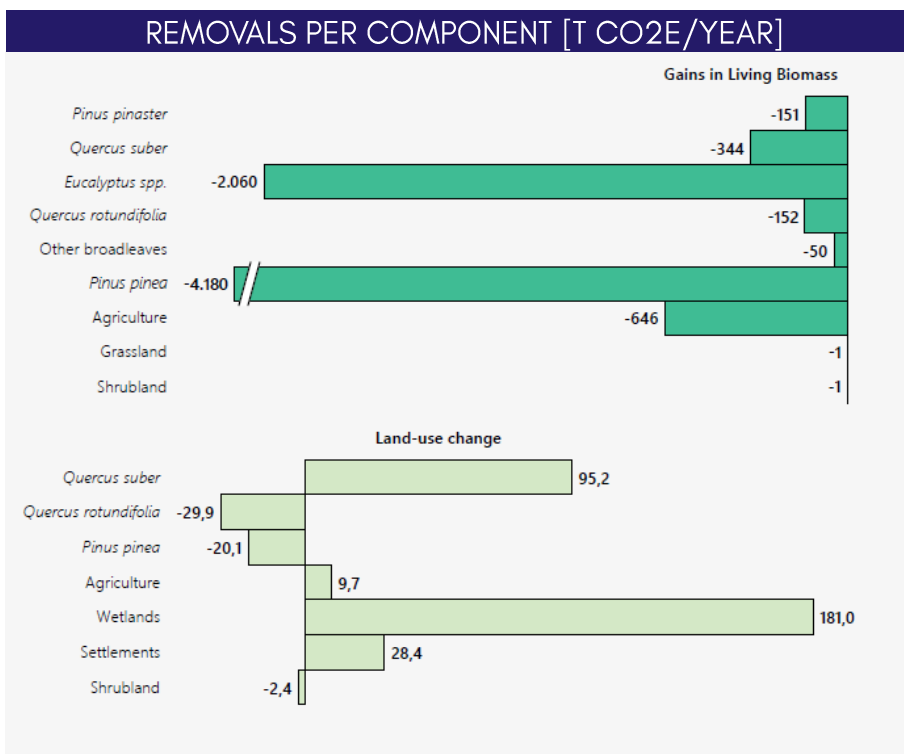
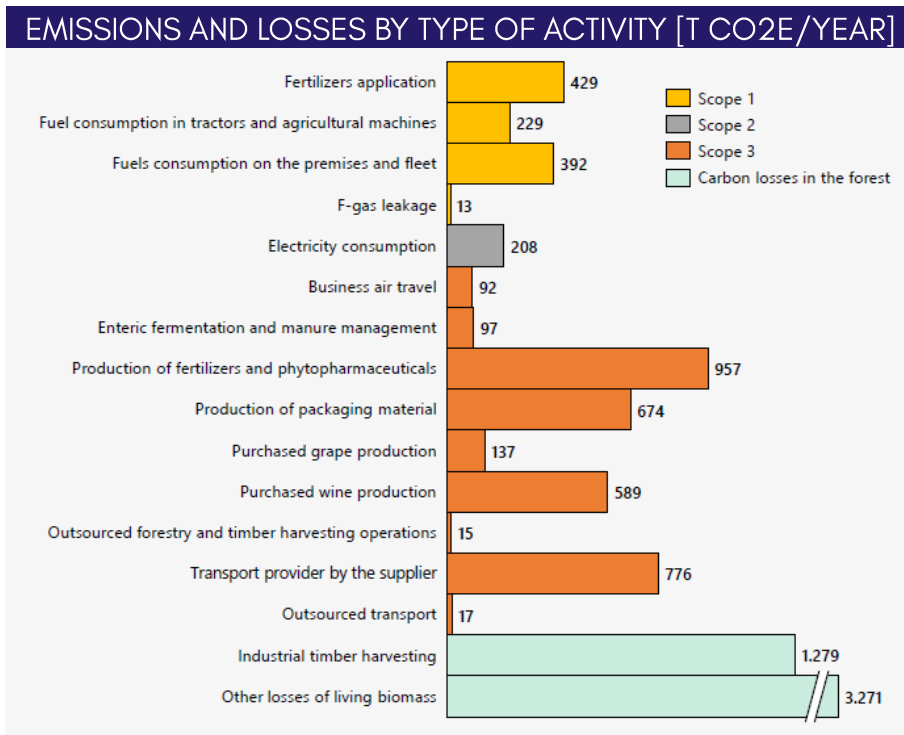
# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## CARBON NEUTRALITY GLOBAL RESULTS



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## CARBON NEUTRALITY DETAILED RESULTS



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



**CO2**  
CO2 measurement is done regularly and compared with previous periods.

Every year we undertake some measures to ensure that the CO2 produced per bottle sold will decrease.

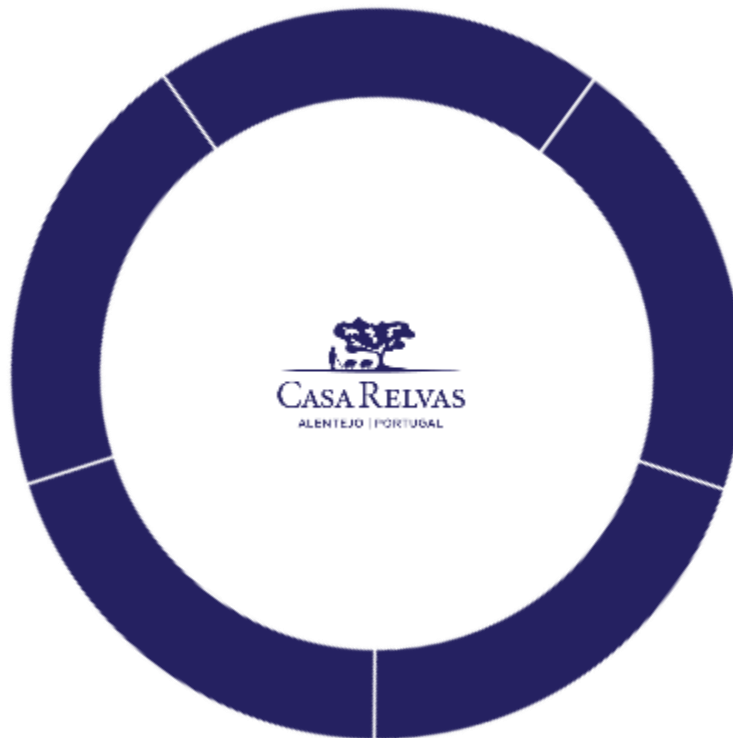
**90%** of our wines are packed in light bottles (<420gr).



**WATER**  
**100%** of the water used in the winery is recycled for irrigation .

Control of water consumption using probes and basic water potentials in order to have an efficient irrigation.

Water meters, flow meters and continuous control of water consumption.



**SOILS**  
**100%** Global Gap  
**100%** PSVA  
**20%** Organic Farming

Merino sheep mobs allow for the minimum use of herbicides.

Natural fertilization of the vines with animal and urban compost.



**BIODIVERSITY**  
Improving turfgrass between the rows.

Biodiversity corridors with native plants.

Native insects and fungi.



**WASTE MANAGEMENT**  
**95%** of the waste that is produced is recycled  
Packaging / boxes / BIB  
**98%** FSC certified cardboard



**FOREST**  
**725ha** of Iberian forest

1 of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## VITICULTURE

***"We work in the vineyards in a respectful and sustainable manner, which enables us to achieve the consistency which we have aimed for in the last few years."***

António Relvas  
(CAO)



Casa Relvas has a total of 268ha of vineyards, 169ha of which are in Vidigueira and 99ha are in São Miguel de Machede.

Our production is GLOBAL G.A.P and PSVA certified. We use production systems based on good agricultural practices, rational water management and efficient soil management, preserving biodiversity and favouring the use of natural regulation mechanisms that contribute to a sustainable agriculture.

A mob of 360 Merino sheep plays a very important role in our vineyards. From November to February, when there are still no leaves on the vines, sheep are used to manage the cover crop leading to an increase in the improvement of soil organic matter in the soils.



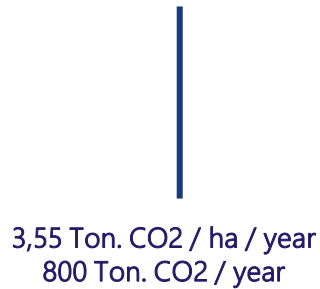
# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## VITICULTURE SUSTAINABILITY KPI'S

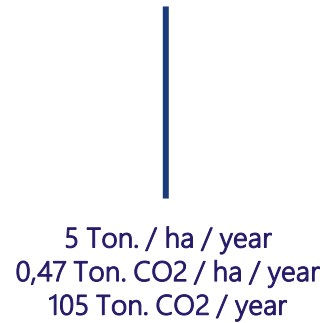
Lt. H2O / KG GRAPES



CO2 CAPTURED PER COVER CROPS



ORGANIC MATTER INCORPORATED IN THE SOIL



CERTIFICATION GLOBAL G.A.P & PSVA





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## OLIVICULTURE SUSTAINABILITY KPI'S

Casa Relvas has planted 292ha of olive groves in Vidigueira. Efficient irrigation systems, rational soil management and preservation of biodiversity are our main priorities.

Lt. H2O / KG OLIVES

236L

CO2 CAPTURED PER  
COVER CROPS

1,4 Ton. CO2 / ha / year  
420 Ton. CO2 / year

CO2 CAPTURED BY  
OLIVE GROVES

0,7 kg  
CO2e/ha/year\*

CERTIFICATION  
GLOBAL G.A.P

100%





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## FOREST

“The cork oak forests are living ambassadors of sustainability and a driving force of sustainable development. They play a crucial role in the world’s ecological balance fighting climate change, desertification and sustaining biodiversity.”

“The cork oak is a slow-growing species that plays an important role in capturing CO<sub>2</sub>. Its roots, leaves, trunk and bark - cork - store CO<sub>2</sub> throughout the tree’s life, on average 200 years.”

“Cork forests are one of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots that play a crucial role in the world’s ecological balance.”

“In the Mediterranean basin, cork oak forests occupy an area of over 2,2 million hectares. In more than one way, they are the lung of the region. They are crucial to maintain a fragile ecological balance, but also because they play a decisive role in shaping a unique social, economic and cultural landscapes.”

*in [www.amorim.pt](http://www.amorim.pt)*

## WE SEEK HARMONY IN NATURE

The passion for Alentejo and the respect for its unique and genuine terroir led to the first step in our project: the typical cork oak forest.



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## FOREST

At Casa Relvas, there are 725ha of Iberian forest, 418ha of which are cork oaks.



### BIODIVERSITY

More than 200 animal species and 135 plant species, some of which are currently endangered.

The cork oak forest is one of the 36 world biodiversity hotspots, along with the Amazon and the African savannah.

Some animal species present: storks, eagles, seagulls, magpies, nightingales, sparrows.

Some plant species present: Lavender, oregano, rosemary, peppermint.



### CO2

CO2 captured by ha. **0,61kg CO2e / ha total\***



### CERTIFICATION

80% of our forest is FSC certified



\*Agroges study carried out in 2021 on the CO2 impact at Casa Relvas



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## PACKAGING

### FSC CARTONS™

98% of our cartons are certified to the international standards of the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™)

FSC™ is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that promotes the responsible management of the world's forests.

Its certification makes it possible to trace pulp fibers at every stage along the supply chain, ensuring that all products bearing the FSC™ symbol support forest management that adopts socially beneficial, environmentally appropriate and economically viable practices.



### LIGHT WEIGHT BOTTLES

Our wines are bottled in light weight bottles (<420gr). Lightweight glass reduces energy and raw material consumption, thus saving resources. The significantly lower material consumption and the high proportion of recycled material used in the production of light glass bottles ensure that CO2 emissions are considerably reduced.

### CORKS CO2 - 335 BALANCE AMORIM CORK

The cork oak forest is one of the richest ecosystems in the world and has the capacity to capture carbon. For every tonne of cork produced, cork oaks clean 73 ton. of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the air. Each one of these corks captures 335g of CO2 from the air, making them a vital tool in reducing the carbon emissions of our activity.





# 7

## WINERIES



**WE PIONEERED THE WATER RECYCLING IN  
THE WINERIES TO IRRIGATE OUR VINEYARDS.**

# WINERIES

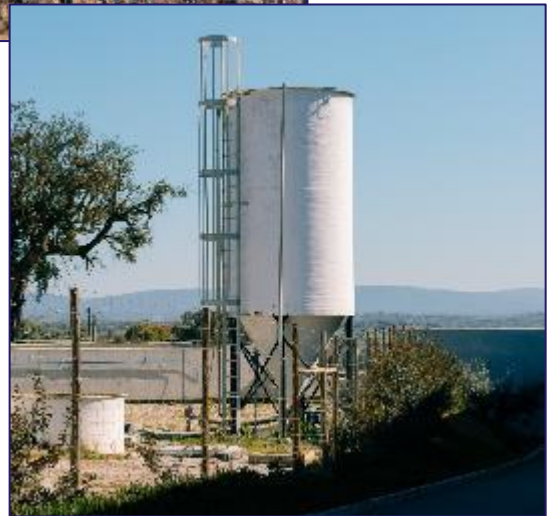
Casa Relvas has two wineries.

Covered in cork and partially buried on the ground, thus achieving temperature benefits, the Herdade da Pimenta winery was one of the finalists for *Building of the Year* by Archdaily, for its beauty, materials and integration in the Alentejo landscape. Designed to respect the integrity of the grapes to the maximum, the winery is equipped with the latest technology from winemaking to shipping. It is also in this building where the Wine Tourism centre and the offices operate.



## PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT

In order to minimise our ecological footprint and to transform a renewable and sustainable source into energy, we have installed a photovoltaic plant for self-consumption in the winery. With 395 solar panels of 540 W each, this installation allows us to reduce the emission of CO<sub>2</sub>, consume our own energy, reduce the need to resort to the network and thus obtain significant savings in the energy bill. These solar panels produce 25% of the energy that we consume.



## ETAR - WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Casa Relvas was a pioneer in Alentejo in recycling the grey waters used in wineries to irrigate our vineyards.

- **L/H<sub>2</sub>O PER LITRE OF WINE: 1,5L**
- **KWA PER BOTTLE: 0,14 KWA**
- **% OF RECYCLED WATER: 100%**
- **RECOVERY AND RECYCLING OF RINSING WATER 25 CUBIC METRES PER MONTH**

# 8

## CERTIFICATIONS & ORG



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## CERTIFICATIONS & ORG



- Certis
- Lloyd's Register
- Eurofins
- Carbon Footprint
- SMETA
- Porto Protocol member
- Bureau Veritas Certification - FSSC22000
- Amorim Cork cooperation

# 9

## GOALS 2022

# GOALS

## 2022

- **Greater efficiency of natural resources**
- **Reduction to 1.2L of water per litre of wine produced**
- **Organic certification for lamb meat production**
- **Maintain 100% of the agricultural area of Casa Relvas GLOBAL G.A.P. certified**
- **Create a composting centre for agro-industrial by-products and pruning waste**



# KNOW MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AT CASA RELVAS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWlnTAppD8>

# REFERENCES

\*Agroges study carried out in 2021 on the CO2 impact at Casa Relvas.

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- <https://www.vineyardteam.org/files/resources/Carbon%20sequestration%20Decock.pdf>
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**WE TAKE THE BEST OF ALENTEJO TO  
THE WORLD!**

