

Press Release – 29-07-08

Portucel Soporcel Group distinguished

**Herdade de Espirra wines
receive international awards**

- **2005 Herdade de Espirra (Palmela DOC¹) awarded medal in England and assured of a place in the Brazilian market**

The 2005 Herdade de Espirra (Palmela DOC) red wine has been awarded a Bronze Medal at the latest International Wine Challenge in England – one of the most prestigious wine-tastings in the world – and a Commended medal at the famous Decanter World Wine Awards, which is also held in the UK.

These two international awards have further enhanced the reputation for superior quality which the produce of Sociedade de Vinhos Herdade de Espirra – Portucel Soporcel Group has been earning among leading specialists, thereby adding to the recognition its successes in a variety of Portuguese and international competitions had already brought it.

Launch in Brazil

It is especially significant that the renown which the Herdade de Espirra wines have secured abroad is opening the doors to the export markets. Of particular note is the entry of Herdade de Espirra (DOC Palmela) and Adega da Floresta (Regional Terras do Sado) into the Brazilian market, where they are being distributed by LCupello Wine&Spirits Imp. Exp. Com. Ltda, which is represented in various States including São Paulo and Minas Gerais.

The 1,700 hectare Espirra Estate is located in the Palmela region and belongs to the Portucel Soporcel Group. It is mainly devoted to a diversified range of

¹ DOC: Registered Designation of Origin.

forestry-related activities, particularly the growing of eucalyptus, cork oak and pine, and its nurseries have the capacity to produce 10 million certified plants for reforestation purposes each year. The Espirra Estate is sustainably managed in accordance with the most demanding biodiversity criteria. It combines the production of wood with the offer of various different goods and services, such as hunting, fruit growing (pine nuts), CO₂ capture, floristic biodiversity, pasture for ovine and bovine livestock, the production of biological honey, and also the production of superior quality wines that are becoming increasingly well known both in Portugal and internationally.

About the Portucel Soporcel Group

The Portucel Soporcel Group occupies a leading position in the international pulp and paper market, and is the largest European producer of Bleached Eucalyptus Kraft Pulp (BEKP), and one of the largest producers of fine Uncoated Woodfree Paper (UWF) on the continent.

With an annual turnover in excess of € 1,100 billion, the Group exports over 92% of its production to more than 80 countries. These exports are worth over € 950 million and represent about 3% of Portugal's total goods exports.

It sustainably manages around 120,000 hectares of forest land, 102,000 hectares of which are FSC certified.

The Group has developed its own high quality paper brands, and currently owns market leaders in the various premium segments, examples of which include Navigator and Soporset.

The Group directly employs around 2,000 highly qualified workers, who work at three sophisticated plants located in Setúbal, Figueira da Foz and Cacia.