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## **“OUTSTANDING” AMORIM TAKES SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**

Amorim & Irmãos, the world’s leading natural cork producer, has again been praised for its environmental practices, claiming an ‘Outstanding Contribution to Sustainability Award’ at the inaugural Drinks Business Green Awards in London.

Staged by leading UK industry publication, *The Drinks Business*, the awards were established to reward companies and individuals displaying leadership on environmental issues and implementing dynamic ethical practices.

The awards were split into eight categories with two of those acknowledging individuals and six rewarding organisations. A panel of judges reviewed nominees on their credentials in areas such as environmental performance, environmental training, motivational initiatives, green campaigns and ethical initiatives.

Eight companies were short-listed for the Sustainability Award category that recognised efforts to employ efficient and effective sustainable practices in either production or agricultural practices.

Amorim was acknowledged for the work undertaken in its production facilities and in cork forestry in order to produce the most sustainable natural cork products and improve its overall carbon footprint.

Over the past 12 months Amorim has continued to work closely with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to promote sustainable forestry in the cork industry and has actively encouraged the UK wine trade to commit to FSC certified corks.

“It is very rewarding to gain recognition for our partnerships within the UK wine trade in developing packaging solutions that combine sustainability with technology and premium product-positioning,” said Carlos de Jesus, Amorim’s director of marketing and communications.

“Particularly so in a year that will see all of Sainsbury’s six million cork-sealed bottles moving to Amorim’s FSC-certified closures as well as a growing number of wines bottled by The Co-operative Group.”

*The Drinks Business* also acknowledged Amorim's commitment to the environment in 2009 when it was the only closure supplier named in a worldwide 'Top 50' ranking of companies with strong environmental influence.

Carlos de Jesus said Amorim was pleased to see a number of its customers recognised in The Drinks Business Green Awards 2010.

Argentina's La Riojana Co-operative won the Ethical Award, sponsored by Amorim, for its work in the local community and surrounding environment, while another major Amorim client, Chile's Concha y Toro, won the Logistics & Supply Chain Green Initiative Award.

Other award recipients included Tesco (Green Retailer of the Year), Bibendum (Green Company of the Year), Wakefield Wines and Pure Green Vodka (Best Green Launch), Backsberg Estate (Sustainability Award), Inge Kotzé (Personality Award) and Dr Paul Cluver (Lifetime Achievement Award). The UK-based Waste & Resources Action Programme was also acknowledged with a Special Contribution Award in the Logistics & Supply Chain Green Initiative category.

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