

Domestic
Wild

Discovering Cork.

Girona_Spain.

21-27 April 2024.

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Discovering Cork is a 5-day immersion experience into the world of cork in Girona, one of the most relevant regions in this sector.

We will explore cork from its origin in **nature** by visiting cork oak forests, enter into its **history** with a guided tour of the Museum, enter into its **scientific** aspects at the Cork Institute, and witness the manufacturing process in the cork stopper **industry**.

Before ending the day and having free time to enjoy the surroundings, we will have a daily 2-3 hour session to reflect on cork and its possibilities, initiate a deeper project proposal, and foster collaboration between the University and the visited entities for future projects.

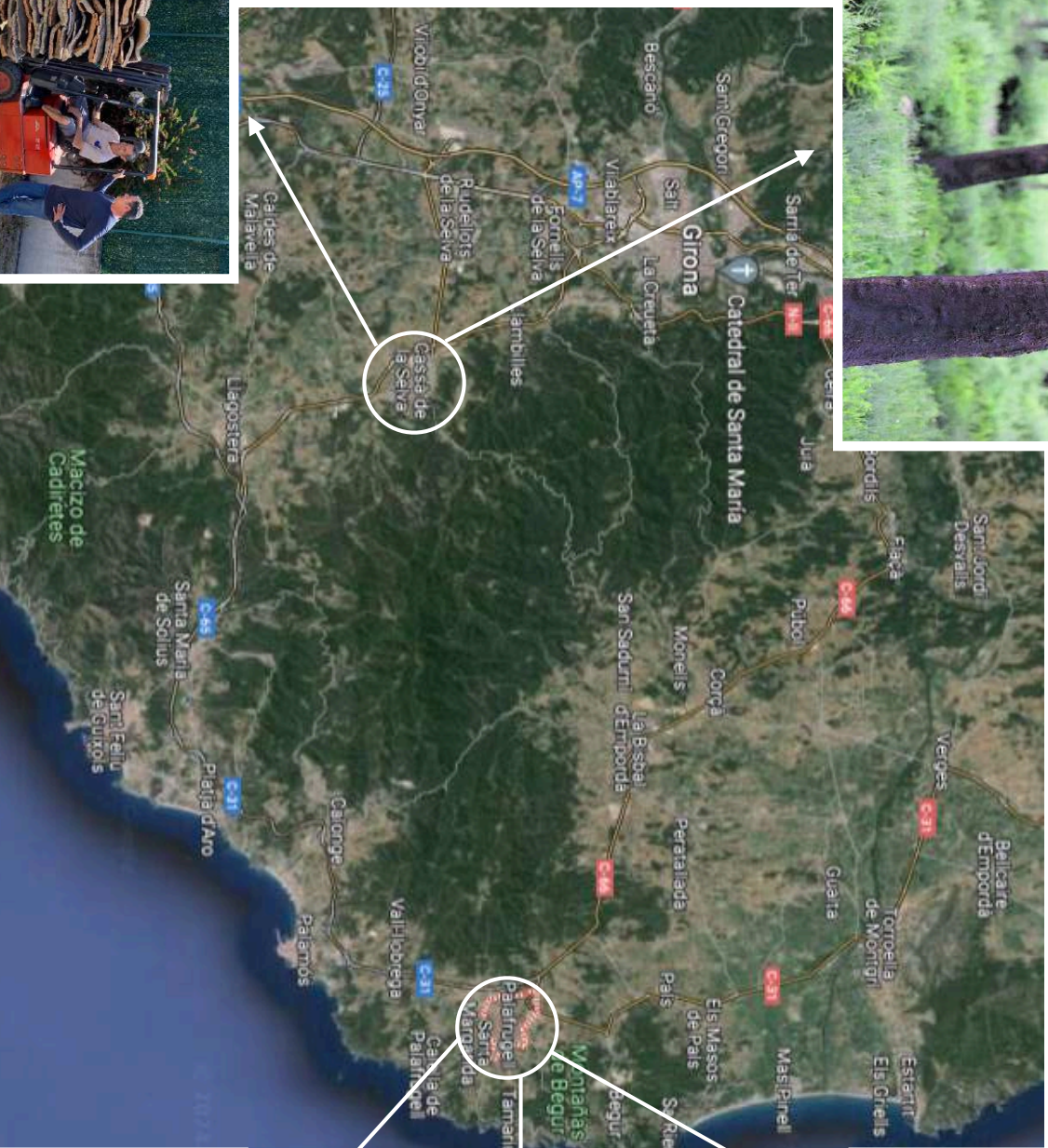
The proposal includes accommodation, breakfast, and dinner at an ancient convent converted into a sustainable tourism hostel located in Palafrugell. Lunches will be at local restaurants. Transfers from Barcelona airport to the accommodation and transportation for visits are also included.

Visits will be conducted in english by technicians from each location, with supplementary translation into german provided by René Müller.



Nature: Oak Cork Forest.
Cassa de la Selva

Discovering Cork. Girona_Costa Brava_Spain.



History: Museu del suro.
Palau de la Selva



Science: Institut Català del suro
Palau de la Selva




Industry: Cork Stripper Factory.
Cassa de la Selva

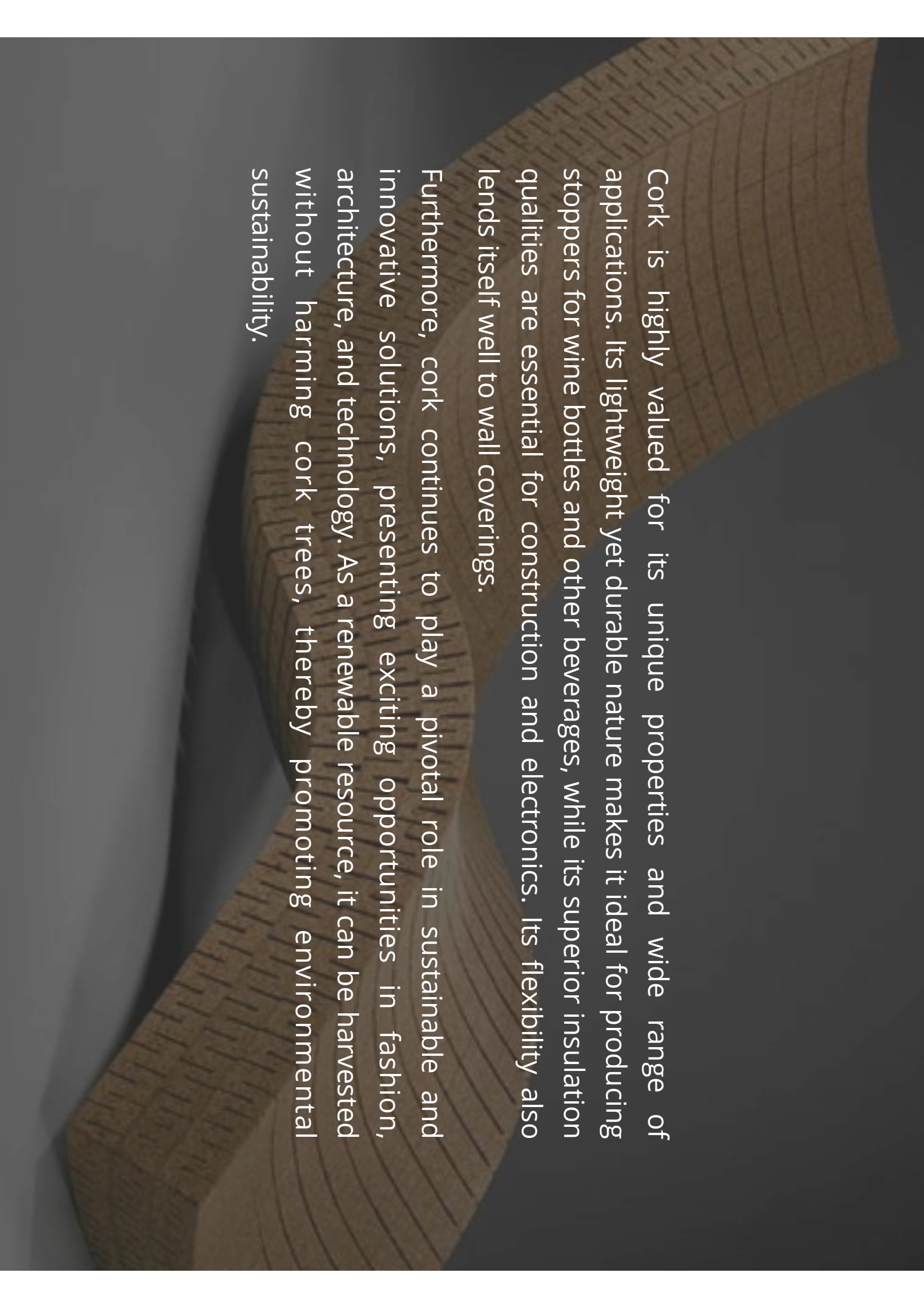


Hostel: Alberg Solidança.
Palau de la Selva





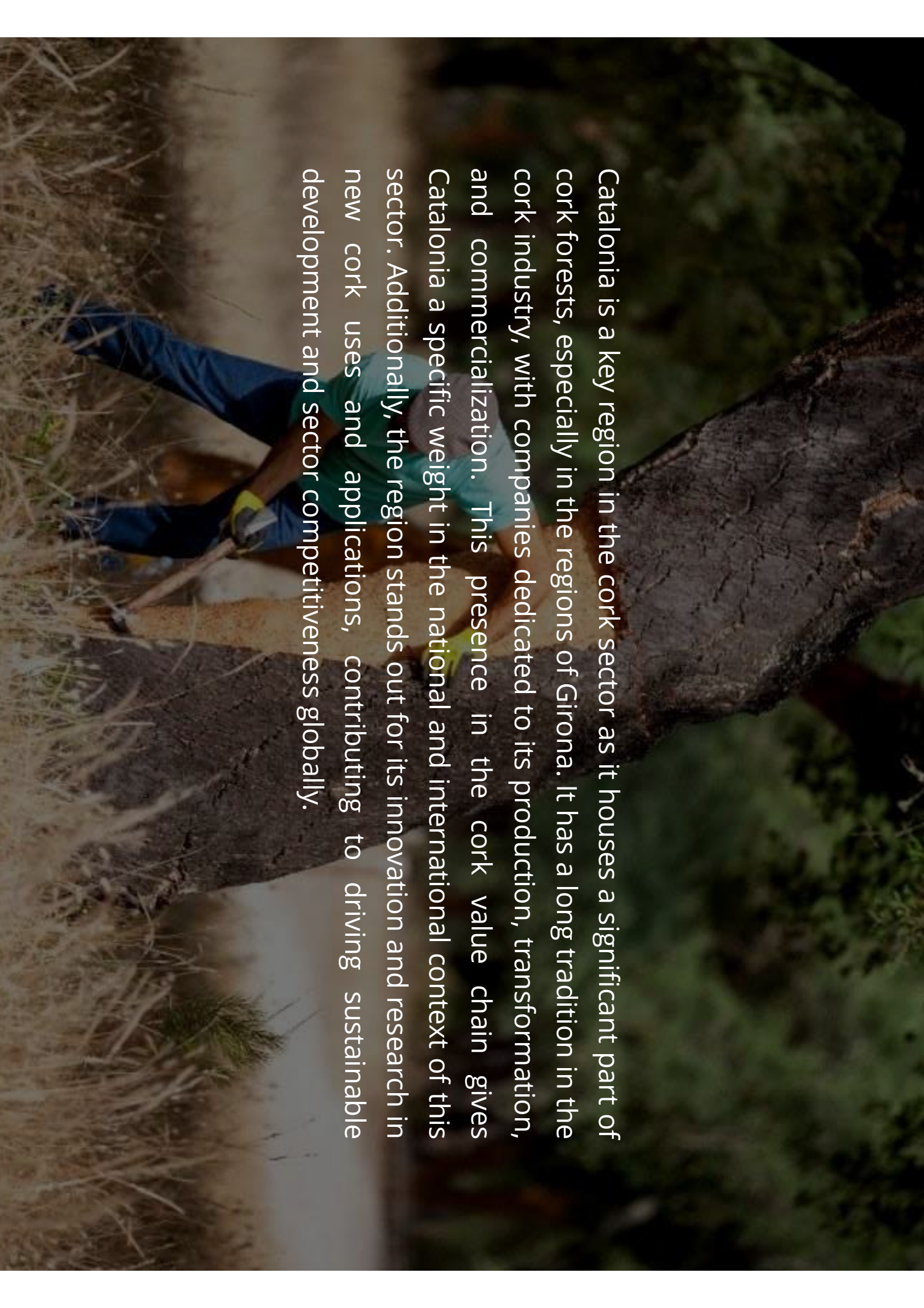
"It is a sustainable and environmentally friendly material, as its extraction does not harm cork trees, which continue to grow and regenerate. The bark can be harvested at intervals of between 9 and 14 years without damaging the tree."



Cork is highly valued for its unique properties and wide range of applications. Its lightweight yet durable nature makes it ideal for producing stoppers for wine bottles and other beverages, while its superior insulation qualities are essential for construction and electronics. Its flexibility also lends itself well to wall coverings.

Furthermore, cork continues to play a pivotal role in sustainable and innovative solutions, presenting exciting opportunities in fashion, architecture, and technology. As a renewable resource, it can be harvested without harming cork trees, thereby promoting environmental sustainability.

Catalonia is a key region in the cork sector as it houses a significant part of cork forests, especially in the regions of Girona. It has a long tradition in the cork industry, with companies dedicated to its production, transformation, and commercialization. This presence in the cork value chain gives Catalonia a specific weight in the national and international context of this sector. Additionally, the region stands out for its innovation and research in new cork uses and applications, contributing to driving sustainable development and sector competitiveness globally.





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