

Portuguese olive mill **quadruples** production capacity with Alfa Laval innovation

A forward-thinking step in the Alentejo region helps preserve generations of farming heritage

With the installation of Alfa Laval's state-of-the-art Foodec Sigma decanter, Caminhos do Futuro has **quadrupled** its extra virgin olive oil processing capacity, increasing from 1,500 kg/hour to 6,000 kg/hour.

As the last remaining mill in Montemor-o-Novo, the cooperative group recognized the urgent need to evolve in order to continue serving a growing community of farmers seeking to process olives from their groves. "We either modernized the process or lost competitiveness," states José Ferreira, the retired operator who dedicated over two decades to the olive oil mill.

Alfa Laval, a trusted technology partner for decades, played a key role in the transformation. "Caminhos do Futuro has always had a vision focused on innovation, and Alfa Laval has supported us every step of the way," says Nelson Fialho, current general manager. "The decision to invest in a brand-new first-extraction line followed months of careful evaluation and collaboration with their experts to identify the optimal solution for our needs."

The mill already had an Alfa Laval olive oil decanter in operation since 1998, along with two high speed separators acquired in 1989 when the first line was installed—all of which remain mechanically efficient today. This reliability reinforced their decision to follow Alfa Laval's recommendation to repurpose the original line for secondary processing. Since 2024, it has been used to process pomace, making use of previously discarded material.

Olive oil innovation towards nourishing a growing global population

With harvest seasons getting shorter due to changing climate conditions, and global demand for healthy, nutritious foods on the rise, Alfa Laval's latest 2-phase decanter centrifuge is being hailed as a significant advancement for small- and medium-sized olive oil mills. Built on the proven Sigma design, the equipment offers improved oil extraction and consistent performance with a simplified, user-friendly interface.

The newly installed model at Caminhos do Futuro features Sigma's latest conveyor design, a key innovation responsible for boosting extraction efficiency in every production cycle. "The longer conveyor increases yield by extending the product flow distance inside the unit, while the patented Active Baffle Disc ensures uninterrupted performance under varying conditions," explains Rafael Ayuso, olive oil expert at Alfa Laval. "Its simplified setup also reduces downtime and minimizes the need for manual adjustments."

With peak harvest periods becoming more intense, the latest addition to the Sigma series is manufactured using high-grade materials and protective components intended to operate under pressure and extend machinery lifespan.

Caminhos do Futuro sees such innovation as essential to meeting the needs of the next generation of olive growers.

Learn more about Alfa Laval Foodec Sigma at www.alfalaval.com/sigma

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Editor's notes

This is Alfa Laval

The ability to make the most of what we have is more important than ever. Together with our customers, we are innovating the industries that society depends on and creating lasting positive impact. We are set on helping billions of people to get the energy, food and clean water they need. And, at the same time, we are decarbonizing the marine fleet that is the backbone of global trade.

We pioneer technologies and solutions that free our customers to unlock the true potential of resources. As our customers' businesses grow stronger, the goal of a truly sustainable world edges closer. The company is committed to optimizing processes, creating responsible growth and driving progress to support customers in achieving their business goals and sustainability targets. Together, we are pioneering positive impact.

Alfa Laval was founded 140 years ago, has customers in 100 countries, employs more than **22,300 people, and annual sales were SEK 66.9 billion (5.8 BEUR) in 2024**. The company is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm and is a recognized and reliable partner in the olive oil industry, offering fully integrated processing solutions supported by a robust and responsive global service network.

www.alfalaval.com



Alfa Laval's Foodec Sigma decenter, now operating at the Caminhos Do Futuro olive oil mill, represents a breakthrough in olive oil extraction



In the olive groves of southern Portugal, an Alfa Laval expert walks alongside Caminhos do Futuro's general manager and a local farmer—an alliance blending innovation, leadership and tradition in olive oil production.