





**It all began with the forest.**  
*Our heritage, our future.*

“ FOR OVER  
200 YEARS,  
MY FAMILY’S DESTINY  
HAS BEEN LINKED TO  
THAT OF  
THE FOREST  
AND ITS MONARCH,  
THE OAK. ”

*Sylvain Charlois*

© Christophe Deschanel

The history of the Charlois Group took root in 1807 in the Bertranges forest, with the stave\*maker Jean Charlois.

In 1928, after three generations of forestry activity, Eugène Charlois established a wood splitting mill at Murlin, which became the Maison Charlois.

Situated in the heart of the Nivernais, deep in the largest forest area of France, the company was a major actor in the preservation of this veritable treasure composed of the finest oaks in France. Specialists in the selection of oaks and the splitting and natural seasoning of staves, it became the undisputed leader in the French stave market.

The heir to this expertise and prestigious reputation, Sylvain Charlois, developed the company’s activities and created the Charlois Group in 2005. With creativity and a spirit of innovation, he takes his inspiration from oak to perpetuate and develop each of his initiatives.

Whilst anchoring the Charlois Group resolutely in the modern era, Sylvain Charlois takes great care to preserve historic family values and skills. He confides “For us, oak is at the origin of everything. It is an infinite source of inspiration. Its intransigence and perfection guide all our creations. And we take pains to ensure that the result of its transformation is befitting of its nobility.”

Since its creation the Charlois Group has diversified into a range of complementary activities all with oak and the forest as their focus. They embrace an arborescence of skills which include the trades of forestry, saw-milling, stave making, cooperage, the manufacture of oak products for oenology, engineering, architecture and design. It also incorporates a specialist laboratory for the agro-food industry and a research & development unit.

In 2016, the nobility of oak justifiably inspired the Charlois Group to step into the realm of luxury. This saw the creation of La Chênaie, a brand of cosmetics made using a patented oak extract, inspired by anti-age research, and the La Grange cooperage, prestigious artisan barrel makers whose hand-crafted production is the work of Meilleurs Ouvriers de France. Two exceptional activities stamped with the Charlois Group hallmark of excellence.

In 2018, Sylvain Charlois created the Charlois Foundation for Art and the Forest, for the development and the promotion of the art, culture and heritage of the forest, its trades, traditions and values.

In addition, its long commitment to sustainable forest management led the Charlois Group to launch, in 2019, a vast tree-planting project in France. Spaced over ten years, an average of 40,000 young trees a year will be planted to encourage biodiversity and the development of the forest.

\* High quality oak cut into lengths for the manufacture of oak barrels.



## OUR VALUES

Oak has been written into the Charlois family DNA for over 200 years.

It is the passion for this noble tree that continues to inspire the Group today. A passion without which this venture would not be possible.

## EFFICACY, AUTHENTICITY, AESTHETICS, INNOVATION

These are the four key values upon which the Charlois Group is founded.

## EFFICACY

Efficacy requires the organisation and implementation of control systems to optimise product quality and meet our customers' requirements.

It also demands optimum working conditions, specialist equipment, good security and hygiene, and a sound environment.



## AUTHENTICITY

The story that began over 200 years ago in the Nevers and Bertranges forests has been perpetuated since 1928 at Murlin and continues today thanks to ethical professional practices. Strong principles such as the attachment to authenticity generate confidence and have built us an excellent reputation with customers, suppliers and financial partners. An authenticity that is also a source of pride and motivation for our employees.



## AESTHETICS

A sense of aesthetics translates into beauty and elegance, and in the constant care and respect that accompanies all our actions and creations.



## INNOVATION

Our ongoing research into oak and its qualities allows us to constantly innovate to improve the quality of our products, and to create new ones.



**THE FOREST,** CORNERSTONE OF THE  
GROUP, A HERITAGE, A GENEALOGY



**THE LIVING TREE,** WHOSE TALENT LIES  
IN THE FRUIT OF ITS LABOUR,  
ITS RAMIFICATIONS.



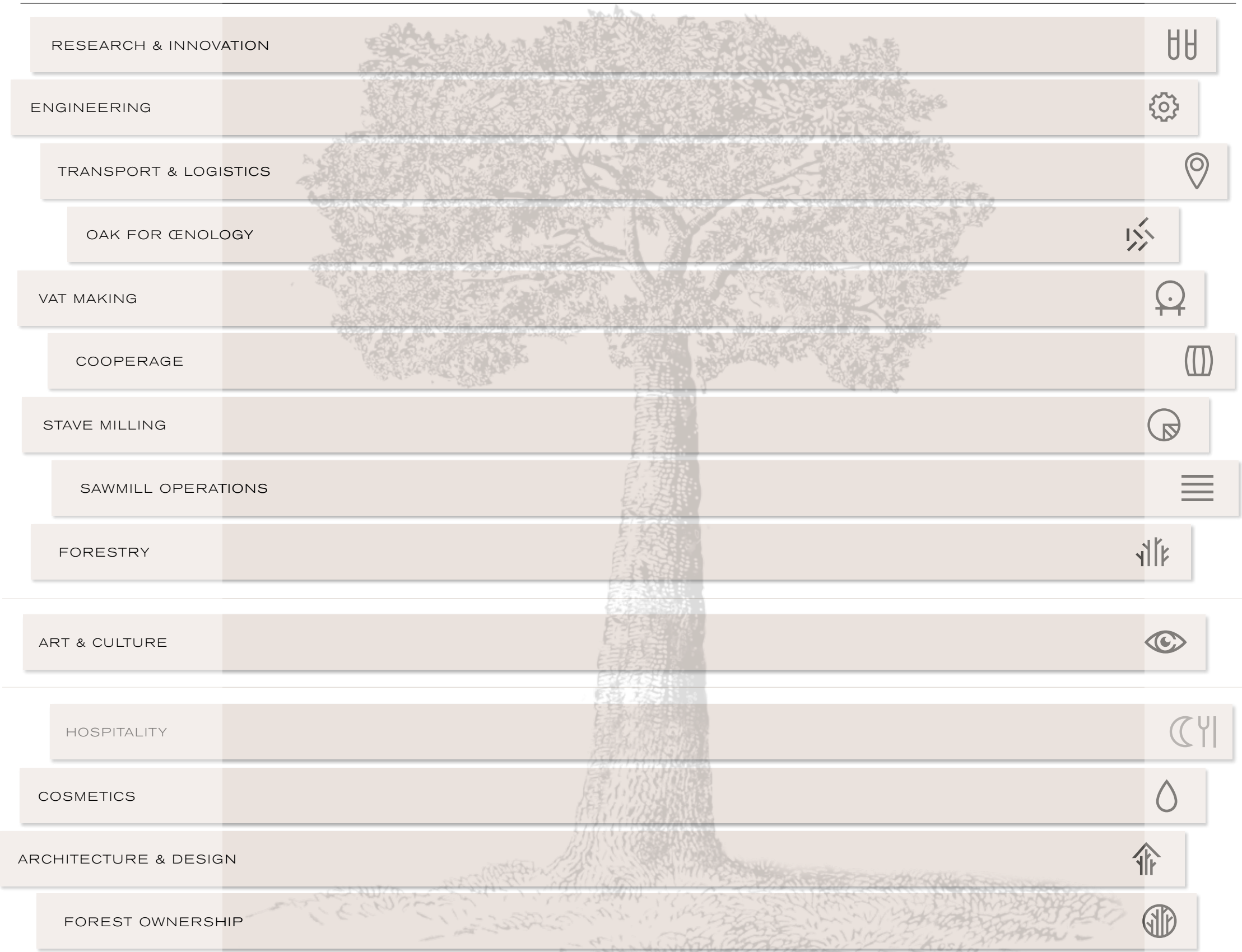
The forest is the key element that unites and motivates the Charlois family. More than just a Group, it is a family of experts that share a single, unwavering vision – that of **the best craftsmen for the finest oaks.**

## OUR TRADES





# AN ARBORESCENCE OF SKILLS





The activities of the Charlois Group are organized  
around three core segments :

OAK COLLECTION  
OAK GENERATION  
OAK NATION

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OAK  COLLECTION

*The forest is a place of multiple resources.  
Its beneficial effect on the body and the soul is  
the main focus of the trades that are grouped  
within OAK COLLECTION.*

AUTHENTICITY

NATURE

RARITY

EXCELLENCE

VALUES

AESTHETICS

WELL-BEING

SHARING

LUXURY

# FOREST OWNERSHIP

The control of our oak supply depends on forest ownership.

As guardians we take care, day after day, to maintain, develop and renew our forests.

The forest has multiple resources. Their intelligent management enables us to meet our needs in wood production and harvesting, whilst at the same time protecting the environment and promoting biodiversity.

The trees and the forest play an essential role in the preservation of our planet.





# ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Wood is the source of ecological and renewable materials of the future. It is a raw material whose precious qualities are invaluable to architects and designers.

It was this convergence of skills that led the Charlois Group to acquire La Cabane Perchée (The Cabin in the Treetops)® in 2018.

With almost 20 years of experience of the architectural challenge of building cabins in trees all around the world, La Cabane Perchée® is devoted to designing the spaces that we imagine in our dreams, built without ever planting a single nail in a tree or sawing a single branch.

These natural hideaways, havens of peace and relaxation, inspire us to reconnect with our feelings, to be at one with Nature. They can serve as a place to sleep, an office, a meeting or games room, or a space for meditation.... and why not even a tasting room ?...



# COSMETICS

With their permanent research into the multiple benefits of oak, the Charlois Group scientists have, for the first time, perfected a patented oak extract with powerful anti-ageing properties.

Quercus Petraea Concentrate is extracted from different parts of the tree, such as the bark, the softwood and the leaves.

This discovery is at the origin of a range of high-performance anti-age products with exceptional regenerative properties, baptized La Chênaie

And following the bark, wood and leaf, study of the sap, precious lifeblood of the oak tree, enabled the La Chênaie scientists to register a new trademark, PETRASÈVE® in 2018. In March 2019, four new treatments were launched in a new range of ultra-hydrating skincare products.



OAK  GENERATION

*The history of the Charlois Group took root over 200 years ago in the forests of the Nièvre and more specifically in the Bertranges national forest, and since 1928 in Murlin. OAK GENERATION is concerned with the development of activities that pay tribute to this original village and the forest that surrounds it.*

TRANSMISSION  
OUTREACH  
ROOTS  
ORIGINS  
SHARING



# ART & CULTURE

After two centuries of implantation and participation in local tradition in Murlin, the Charlois family are definitively rooted in this village in the heart of the Betranges forest.

This attachment naturally led the company to develop a number of cultural projects in this small, wooded corner of France. The desire to transmit and share led to the creation by Sylvain Charlois of the Charlois Foundation for Art and the Forest. Its objectives are notably the development and the promotion of the art, culture, heritage, trades, traditions and values of the forest. The Charlois Group also supports all forms of artistic expression, including a musical group, The Barrels.

In parallel to the Foundation for Art and the Forest and springing from its long commitment to sustainable forest management, in 2019 the Charlois Group launched a vast tree-planting project.







A man in a dark jacket is shown in profile, measuring the diameter of a large tree trunk with a white tape. The background is a sunlit forest with trees and some autumn leaves.

# FORESTRY

All year long, our buyers roam the French forests in search of the finest oak trees that will be used for making the barrels destined for ageing fine wines and spirits.

Painstakingly, they will evaluate one by one the oaks that have been selected according to a strict management plan, designed to ensure sustainability, forest regeneration and respect for biodiversity.



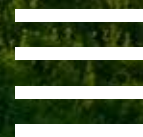




# SAWMILL OPERATIONS

The Charlois sawmill specialises in making railway sleepers and is the European leader in this field. Wooden sleepers, or ties, have existed for more than 150 years, having made their appearance in Europe and the USA with the development of the railways. Oak is the principal material used for making the 2.5 million sleepers that exist across the world

This ecological product is today highly sought after. A renewable and local resource originating from sustainably managed forests, they allow the Charlois Group to optimise wood by transforming 100% of the oaks they buy.





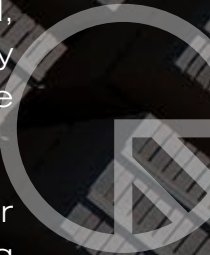
# STAVE MILLING

After the selection of trees in the forest\*, splitting the wood is the most important stage of preparing the oak staves.

It is a traditional skill using techniques and expertise handed down from generation to generation. It demands an unfailing eye to correctly read the grain of the wood, split the log into quarters and eliminate the heartwood, sapwood and outer bark to extract perfectly straight staves from the noblest part of the wood.

The staves are then seasoned in the open air for a minimum of 24 months in a vital maturing phase.

\* Only 2% of French oak is of stave quality. This quality represents 30% of the volume purchased by the Group.





A man, likely a cooper, is shown working on a large wooden barrel. He is positioned behind the barrel, with his hands on the top edge, possibly securing the head. The barrel is made of light-colored wood staves held together by dark metal hoops. The scene is dramatically lit from the side, casting long shadows and highlighting the texture of the wood and the man's features. In the background, several wooden staves are leaning against a wall. The overall atmosphere is one of traditional craftsmanship.

# COOPERAGE

Once the staves are fully seasoned, they are sorted once more before being used by the cooperage. At this point, each cooperage in the Group is faithful to its own traditions, ranging from the choice of oak depending on its provenance or its texture, to the methods of fabrication. Each element is respected in order to express the individual signature of the cooperage.

Barrel ageing is one of the most important stages in making quality wines. At the end of the maturing period, these fine wines express organoleptic properties of a complexity and an originality that reflect and reinforce their personality.







# VAT MAKING

Vat making encompasses the production of vats and other large formats. Each product is unique, made-to-measure and conceived in relation to a specific project, designed to be in perfect harmony with the organisation and aesthetics of the cellar in which it will reveal its potential over many years.

Oak vats and tuns are an expression of luxury. They are the embodiment, in the winemaking sphere and in the eyes of world, of the prestige and high-quality work that is involved in the making of a fine wine.





# OAK FOR ŒNOLOGY

Just as in barrel making, the manufacture of quality oak products for use in winemaking depends on three main criteria: selection of the raw material, natural seasoning of the wood, and toasting.

Thanks to its position as leader in the French oak sector, and its long experience in cooperage, the Charlois Group has, for the last ten years, positioned itself at the top end of the market with its offer of technically accomplished products.







# TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

Transporting and delivering barrels that are destined for wines and spirits demands particular attention, mainly due to the prestigious nature of the customers and the care that the barrels require.

For over 10 years, the Charlois Group has offered a customised logistics service adapted to the needs of each of its customers.

In 2017, a dedicated logistical structure was created: Charlois Premium Logistique (CPL).





# ENGINEERING

To ensure the highest level of quality and optimisation of materials, the Charlois Group develops and designs state-of-the-art machines for sawmills, stave mills and cooperages.

The design office, situated at Murlin, is equipped with its own workshop for assembling and developing machines for the different sites, and is also responsible for their maintenance and renewal.





# RESEARCH ANALYSIS DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION

The laboratory has applied its expertise to the fields of aroma characterisation, the identification of organoleptic defects and food security for almost 20 years.

It incorporates the Group's Research and Development Unit, working notably in the fields of cooperage, oak for oenology and cosmetics.

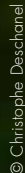
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A close-up photograph of green oak leaves, some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background. The leaves are vibrant green with visible veins. A quote is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

"GIVE TO THE FUTURE  
WHAT WE HAVE  
INHERITED FROM  
THE PAST"

© Christophe Deschanel



This precept, a veritable call to arms in favour of sustainable development, is the basis of all the action and activities of the Charlois Group.

- A friend of the territory
- A trustworthy partner
- A participant in ecological transition
- A responsible employer

This commitment to the environment also takes the form of a vast project, launched in 2019, to plant on French soil an average of 40,000 trees per year for ten years.

Promoting economic growth through activities linked to the forest whilst guaranteeing the sustainability in wood for the generations to come, such is the engagement of the Charlois Group and its founder. For them, it is essential on both a social and cultural level to transmit and pay tribute to the exceptional skills of their craftsmen and partners.





Total traceability of  
100% French products\*

In a sector where it is essential for relationships to be built on confidence in view of the possible consequences for winemakers, cooperages must be able to offer the necessary guarantees in terms of quality, from the selection of the wood to the final barrel.

100% PEFC  
HACCP  
ISO 14001  
ISO 9001

« Guaranteed of French Origin »  
French Oak

Natural seasoning of staves in the open air  
TCA/TCP Control Systems  
COFRAC (Exact Laboratory)





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