New Application Cork Treatment



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Cork taste in wine is a serious problem and has led to increased use of alternatives to cork stoppers. Therefore research programs were carried out by the cork industry to eliminate TCA (2,4,6-trichloroanisole), the main substance responsible for cork taint. One result was a patented process based on supercritical fluid extraction with CO_2 . It does not involve aggressive solvents, is environmentally-friendly and maintains the positive physical and chemical properties of cork. CO_2 also has antifungal and bacteriostatic properties. The industrial scale SCFE plant was realized in Spain and can handle up to 2500 tons of cork granulate per year.



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