

## USING LEFTOVERS FROM WINEMAKING TO CREATE FULLY VEGETAL LEATHER IN ITALY

Vegea Company has developed in Trento (Italy) an innovative process to convert fibres and vegetal oils contained in grape marc into a new eco-friendly material, the WineLeather.

In 2017 the WineLeather won the first prize of the Global Change Award, a world's challenge for innovations within the fashion business created by H&M Foundation.

This innovative production process recycles a leftover very abundant in a country like Italy that is an important wine producer. About the 18% of the global wine production is made in Italy and the WineLeather manufacturing maximises the value of the land and its resources.

Wineleather can also be of interest for various wine regions of many countries. Globally, 26 billion Litres of wine are produced every year and from this production process we can derive almost 7 billion Kilograms of grape marc. This waste can be converted in a raw material of a high added value, producing 3 billion square meters of WineLeather every year.

Through the innovative production process created and patented by Vegea, a totally natural raw material made up of skins, seeds and rasps of grapes that are produced during the production of wine, are transformed into an ecological material that has the same mechanical, aesthetic and sensory characteristics of the leather. The result is a high quality fabric, easily handled by craftsmen and manufacturing industry.

The production process allow for a vegetable product 100% eco-friendly made with low manufacturing costs and with a small demand of water, compared to the 240 litres that are necessary for producing 1 squared meter of animal leather. This process does not produce the residues of the traditional tan that uses acids and heavy metals polluting soils and water and that are harmful for the health of leather workers. The process does not uses any polluting chemical.



WineLeather is the vegetal alternative option to the use of animal or synthetic leather and the aim of the Company is to meet the growing demand for green and cruelty-free products. This eco leather adds value to the high quality fashion.

The innovation started in 2014 with the initiative of its founder, the architect Gianpiero Tessitore, to realize a study in cooperation with various specialized Research Centers in order to analyze physical and mechanical properties of several vegetal fibers and their suitability for being processed into eco-friendly materials. This study led to identify the fibers contained in grape skins and seeds as the ideal ones to generate an ecologic leather-like material. In June 2016 the patent concerning the whole production process was filed.

Vegea Company is based in the Incubator [Progetto Manifattura](#) of Rovereto, a green innovation hub which operates in the fields of green building, renewable energy, environmental technologies and circular economy.

The ambitious future plans of the company located in a region with strong wine production foresee to create special selections of this leather, related to the different typologies of high quality wine, creating new bonds between viticulture and fashion.

#### To know more

[VegeaLeather.com website](#)

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[Global Change Award](#)

[Article in laconceria.it](#)

[Article in hellogreen.it](#)

[Article in barbaganz.blog.it](#)

[WineLeather in Wine Spectator](#)

