DISTILLERIE DE LA TOUR

In 1989, oenologist Jean-Michel Naud, enamoured with the wines of Charente, founded a company dedicated to this terroir.

Distillerie de la Tour has since established itself as the only independent specialist covering all of Charente's viticultural production: wine, brandy, cognac and vodka . With four production sites deep in the Cognac region and strong relations with more than 3,000 winegrowers in France and Europe, Distillerie de la Tour can guarantee both quality and quantity.

Wishing to offer customers a broad choice of flavour profiles and to ensure that its high-quality products are immediately available, the company developed a storage capacity of over 46 million litres in stainless steel tanks and 12 million litres in oak casks.

NEEDS & CHALLENGES

CONTEXT

This ambitious project was designed to support the company's growth by centralising all alcohol storage and aging activities and creating a high-performance facility for the blending and preparation of various spirits: cognac, brandy, gin, vodka and rum. Another new building houses the company's modern & spacious offices.

PROJECT

Combining functionality, productivity and environmental performance, the project meets the needs of Distillerie de la Tour. Key to success was GSE's expertise in industrial & environmental licencing and in managing the interfaces between buildings and industrial processes. The use of BIM for the entire project – from the sketches to the as-built records – supported this integration and helped guarantee full regulatory compliance.

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES

The site is subject to strict constraints related to its SEVESO industrial risk classification (lower-tier facility), due to the storage of alcohol. In terms of architecture, Pierre Denis of DGA Architectes suggested a bold yet respectful approach, in keeping with the Cognac region's heritage – the Distillerie de la Tour's management team being art & architecture enthusiasts.

KEY FEATURES

To protect its precious goods, the site is surrounded by a high-tech fence with sensors, alarms, surveillance cameras, and smoke and heat detectors. Each cellar has gutters to collect alcohol in the event of a fire, connected to an external network with retention tanks and a smothering system. Indoor temperatures are stable thanks to the double concrete walls with a 4-hour fire-resistance rating, combined with thermal insulation. Drainage under the storage buildings enables rainwater to be re-injected using a traditional soil-wetting method.

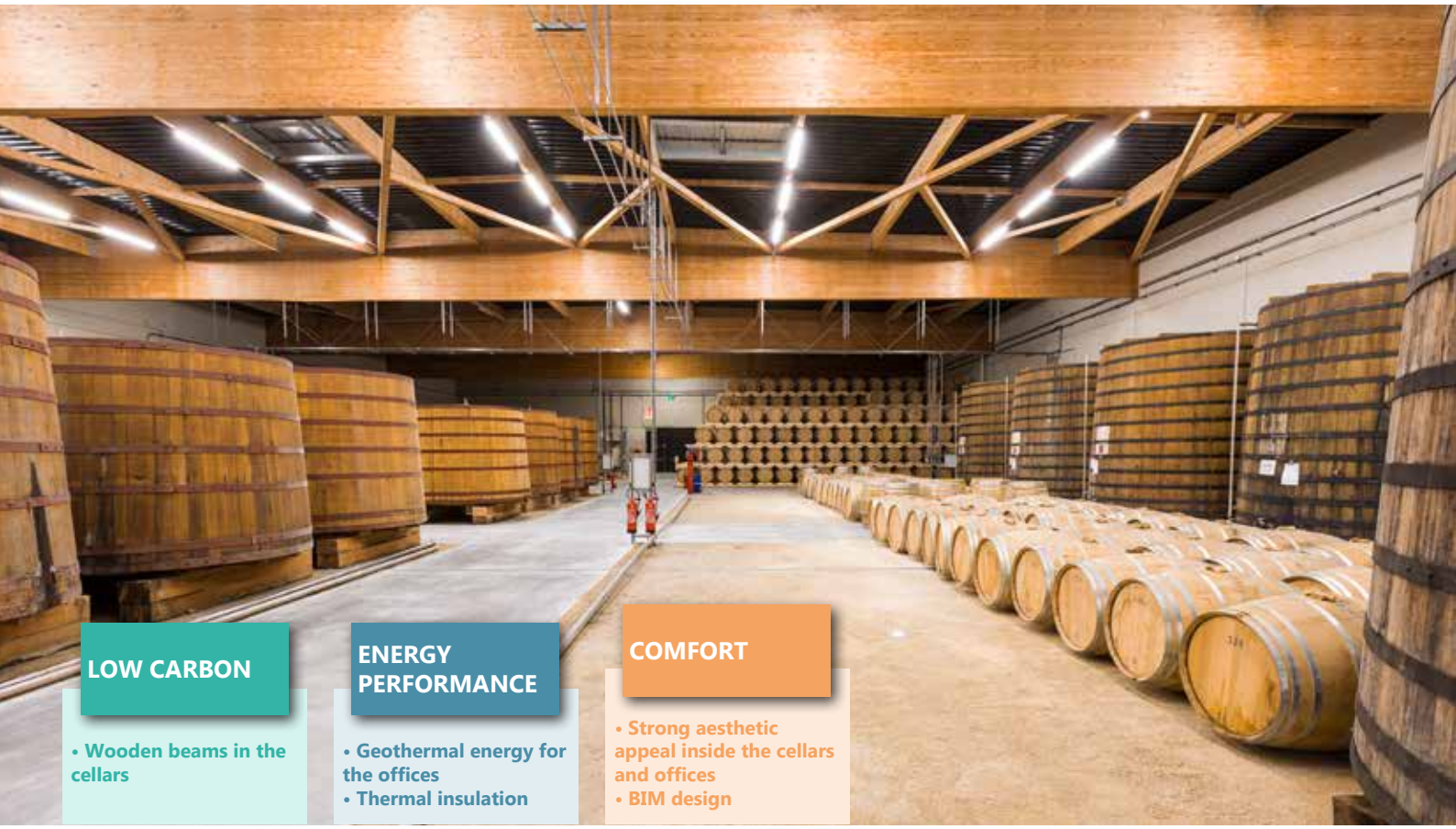


GSE'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTISE AND STRATEGY

FRANCE / MERPINS 16

DISTILLERIE DE LA TOUR

A 15.200 sqm complex including wineries, a production unit and an office building.



PIERRE NAUD
DISTILLERIE DE LA TOUR
MANAGER

We're extremely satisfied with our new site. The building perfectly meets our requirements in terms of safety and productivity. We needed to optimise the flow of vehicles, employees and visitors – and the result is remarkable. Thanks to this innovative and secure design, we can now work in ideal conditions, which helps us guarantee the quality of our products and the safety of our staff. Many thanks to the whole team for their expertise and commitment!