

# Louro Vermelho / Grignon Franc



Trade Name: **Louro Vermelho**

Other Names: Grignon franc, Wana

Scientific Name: *Ocotea rubra*

Family / Famille: *Lauraceae*

Specie Brief: Medium-low density wood with quite high outdoor and marine durability. Suitable for outdoor uses that require some machining such as handrails and cladding.

Wood Description		Physical & Mechanical Properties	
Heartwood Color	<b>Light brown</b>	Specific Gravity (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )*	<b>0.66</b>
Sapwood Color	<b>Clearly demarcated</b>	Monnin Hardness*	<b>2.5</b>
Texture	<b>Medium</b>	Crushing Strength*	<b>51 MPa</b>
Grain	<b>Interlocked</b>	Radial Shrinkage	<b>4.50%</b>
Cross Grain	<b>Slight</b>	Tangential Shrinkage	<b>8.80%</b>
Durability	<b>Class 2 - durable</b>	Tangential / Radial Ratio	<b>2.00</b>
Marine Durable	<b>Class 5 - no</b>	* at 12% moisture content	

## Key Products & Uses:

- Outdoor Joinery
- Outdoor Handrails
- Outdoor Fencing
- Exterior Cladding
- General Construction

## Properties & Characteristics

Louro Vermelho is a unique wood due to its low density but medium durability. It has a low density (0.66 kg/m<sup>3</sup>), but due to its composition and natural oil content it is quite durable (class 2) for outdoor use and somewhat hardy in brackish water. However due to its low mechanical strength then it is generally not used in marine environments. Instead, it is commonly used for handrails, outdoor joinery and seating, or light outdoor construction projects. It is somewhat durable to termites so is also a commonly used species in parts of South America where a light durable construction timber is needed. It is a relatively plain timber with a uniform and very light texture. Even though it is lightweight it has minimal appeal as a furniture species.

## Outdoor Joinery, Handrails & Fencing

The Netherlands is the largest market in Europe for Louro Vermelho where it is used for handrails and other joinery applications in the wooden bridge building industry. It is also commonly used for outdoor joinery projects that involve public seating and esthetic uses in public spaces. As these projects primarily involve public works or local government projects, there is strong demand for certified Louro Vermelho such as FSC or PEFC.

## Exterior Cladding

Due to its light weight and natural durability, Louro Vermelho makes a suitable timber species for use in the exterior cladding sector. Though this sector is heavily dominated by red cedar and modern heat/chemical-treated softwoods, there are certain projects that always require a specialty hardwood like Louro Vermelho. The species is suitable for other external board uses such as fascia.

## General Construction

As the biological forest in South America does not have an abundance of naturally lightweight woods that are durable in exterior applications, then Louro Vermelho is utilized in a variety of local uses in South America. These local uses include fascia boards, window joinery, and small-sized joinery uses such as roof battens which require easy nailing without splitting.