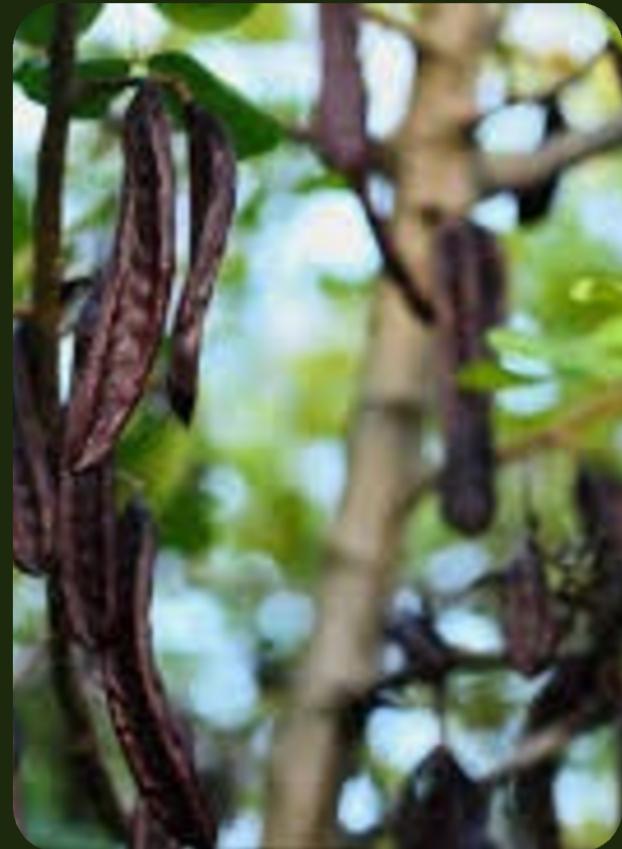


CERATONIA SILIQUA



www.limakhotels.com

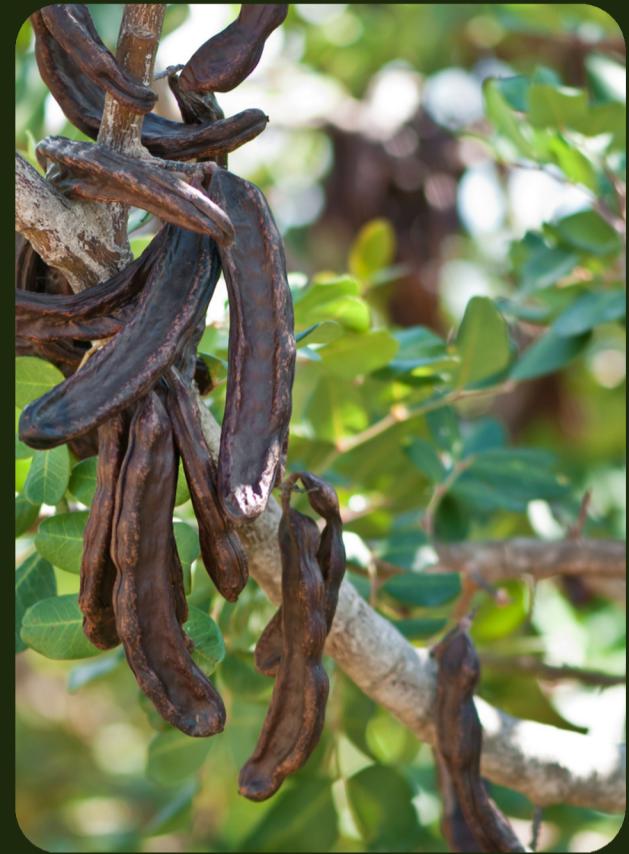
Ceratonia siliqua, commonly known as Carob or Locust Bean, is a very long-lived evergreen tree belonging to the legume family (Fabaceae). Its rounded, dense, and spreading crown, along with its dark green, tough, and glossy leaves, gives it a distinctive and imposing appearance. Its fruits are hard pods that are green when young and turn dark brown as they mature.



The species is native to the Eastern Mediterranean basin (Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, and Syria). Since ancient times, it has played a crucial role in both human and animal nutrition. Carob seeds (kerat) were used as a standard unit for weighing gold and gemstones in antiquity because of their remarkably consistent weight, forming the basis of the modern unit known as the “carat.”

Cultivation and Uses

The carob tree is a true sun lover and is incredibly resistant to extreme drought and poor soils. Thanks to its powerful root system that penetrates deep into the ground, it helps prevent erosion. It prefers calcareous soils but is sensitive to frost; therefore, it is typically grown in mild coastal regions not far from the sea. It requires almost no maintenance and is one of nature's most resilient, self-sufficient warriors.



It is unrivaled as a shade tree in landscaping, creating a cool refuge beneath its broad canopy. It is preferred in parks, large gardens, and along roadsides due to both its visual appeal and low maintenance requirements. Its fruits are used as a natural energy source and sweetener (such as in molasses and flour), while in industry (food and cosmetics) they are highly valued as thickening agents. In addition, its fire-resistant trunk allows it to function as a natural barrier against forest fires.