

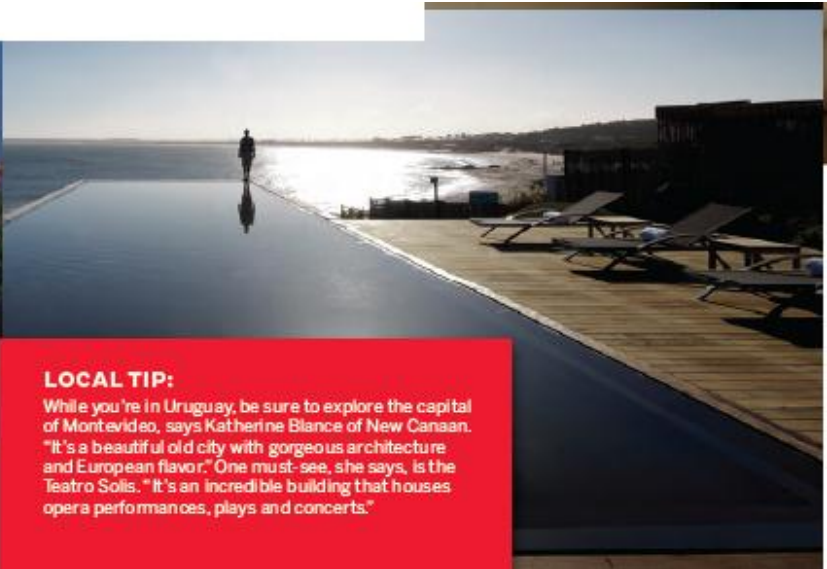
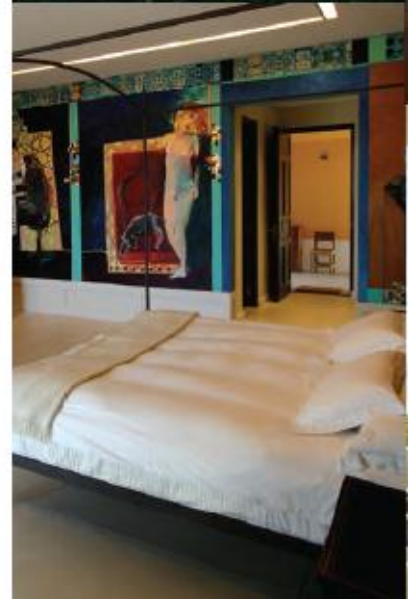


SOME LIKE IT **HOT**

These beach destinations sizzle

1 JOSE IGNACIO, URUGUAY

South America continues its reign as a red-hot destination, and the lesser-known country of Uruguay is heating up too, especially around the Southern resort area of Punta del Este and nearby coastal towns, a section that's being compared to a virgin Saint Tropez. The pros at Quintessentially Travel recommend a stay at **Estancia Vik**, a Spanish colonial-style resort near the bohemian beach town of Jose Ignacio, where there are twelve art-filled suites at a 50,000-square-foot retreat on 4,000 acres. You can take polo lessons from some of the world's top players, or just cheer on athletes during tournaments. At this haven for horse lovers, riding may be the best way to explore the property's rolling hills. If you're craving downtime, lounge at the Absolute Nero pool. To get even closer to the beach, guests at Estancia Vik spend time at its sister property, Playa Vik, reachable by horseback, bicycle or moped, where you can learn to surf in the Southern Atlantic. quintessentiallytravel.com



LOCAL TIP:

While you're in Uruguay, be sure to explore the capital of Montevideo, says Katherine Blance of New Canaan. "It's a beautiful old city with gorgeous architecture and European flavor." One must-see, she says, is the Teatro Solis. "It's an incredible building that houses opera performances, plays and concerts."