



JOSÉ IGNACIO

A working cattle ranch with an ocean view is no oxymoron at Estancia Vik, offering the ultimate in privacy and luxury on Laguna José Ignacio. Surrounded by 4,000 acres of rolling plains, its 12 rooms range from simple quarters to cutting-edge suites, each uniquely designed with artwork by Uruguayan and international artists. Lounge by the granite pool or ride horses down to the estancia's new sister property, Playa Vik, at the beach. The dusty town of Garzón took on a new sophistication when celebrity chef Francis Mallmann transformed the old general store into an inn and candlelit restaurant, where magic happens every night. He splits his time between

the dining room here and 1884, his restaurant in Argentine wine country (see p. 989).

WHERE: 25 miles/35 km north of Punta del Este. **POSADA DEL FARO:** Tel 598/4-862-110; www.posadadelfaro.com. *Cost:* from \$250 (off-peak), \$375 (peak). **PARADOR LA HUELLA:** Tel 598/4-862-279; www.paradorlahuella.com. *Cost:* lunch \$30. **NAMM:** Tel 598/4-862-526. *Cost:* dinner \$40. **ESTANCIA VIK:** Tel 598/94-605-212; www.estanciavik.com. *Cost:* from \$490 (off-peak), \$1,000 (peak), all-inclusive. **GARZON INN:** Tel 598/4-102-811; www.restaurantegarzon.com. *Cost:* from \$820, inclusive; dinner \$75. **BEST TIMES:** Nov–mid-Dec and Feb–Apr for warm weather and fewest crowds.