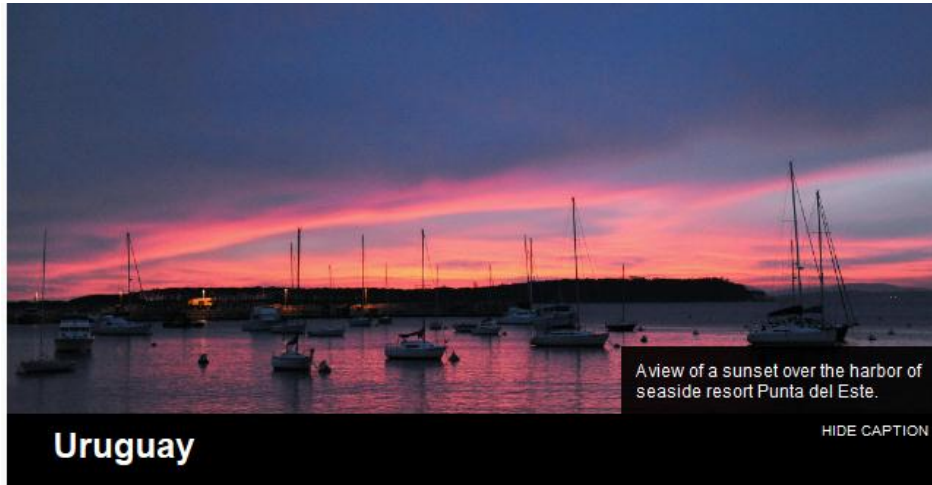


World's top destinations for 2012

By A. Pawlowski, CNN



A view of a sunset over the harbor of seaside resort Punta del Este.

HIDE CAPTION

Uruguay

(CNN) – Globe-trotters everywhere, it's time to raise your champagne glass and toast to all the wonderful new journeys you'll take in the new year.

But where exactly should you go in 2012? As always, some places will stand out above the rest when it comes to unforgettable things to do and see.

To help you decide, we sought out recommendations from four travel experts: Robert Reid, U.S. travel editor for [Lonely Planet](#); Martin Rapp, senior vice president of leisure sales at [Altour](#); Anne Banas, executive editor at [SmarterTravel](#); and Jeanenne Tornatore, senior editor for [Orbitz.com](#).

Uruguay

There are extraordinary hotels opening in this South American country, which has stayed below the radar for many tourists, Rapp said.

"People don't know it ... so it's a real find," he said. "I rode horses, because the horseback riding is superb. The beaches are completely unspoiled."

He recommended checking out the art-filled [Playa Vik](#) and the [Estancia Vik](#) as well as the [Hotel Fasano](#) in the seaside resort of Punta del Este.