

FINANCIAL TIMES

how to spend it



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travelista

Wander woman Maria Shollenbarger fast-tracks international intelligence on where to be and what to see.

✈ February has arrived, and those of us not gearing up to cheer ringside or slope-side at the Vancouver Olympic Games (kicking off February 12) are slogging through the depths of winter. How fortunate, then, that down in South America there is a surfeit of news to justify an escape. In **URUGUAY**, José Ignacio – where those eschewing the increasingly overwrought glitz of Punta del Este congregate – has a new beachside resort from the owners of last year's big newsmaker, Estancia Vik. **Playa Vik** (www.estanciavikjoseignacio.com; from \$354) is a resolutely contemporary retreat comprised of six two- and three-bedroom houses flanking an airy pavilion which holds a lounge, organic café and three additional suites. It's all

configured around a central courtyard curated with original sculptures by Zaha Hadid, a painting by Anselm Kiefer, a light installation by James Turrell and works by other art-world luminaries. Rooms have private gardens stretching down to Playa Mansa, home to a sunset that's purported to be one of the most stunning in South America.

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