

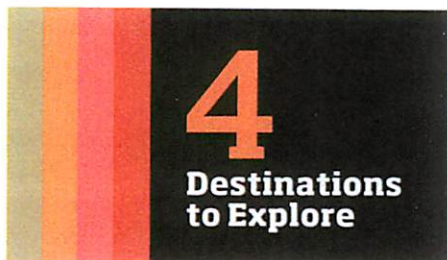
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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011



Wander

4 Punta del Este, Uruguay



BY MICHAEL LUONGO

BEACH BABYLON

WHY GO: Punta del Este is the go-to summer vacation spot for the elite from Buenos Aires and beyond. **In addition to casinos and mega yachts, you'll find distinctive architecture, secluded beaches, and a thriving local art scene.** Sculptor and painter Carlos Páez Vilaró built his Casa Pueblo retreat (above) in the 1960s. Visitors can spend a night in the Gaudí-esque complex (its design is inspired by the nests of native ovenbirds), buy art, and sip drinks at the bar—a quintessential Punta experience.

What's Hot, What's Ott

Modern design defines Playa Vik José Ignacio, a new beachfront retreat 12 miles northeast of Punta del Este. Six casas (below) surround a central glass-and-titanium building designed by Uruguayan architect Carlos Ott. Enjoy soaking tubs made of beech wood and a swimming pool that seems to extend into the horizon. From \$800, Calle Los Cisnes, 598/94-605212, vikretreats.com

