

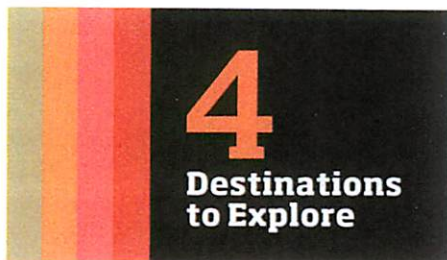
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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011



## 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](http://vikretreats.com)

