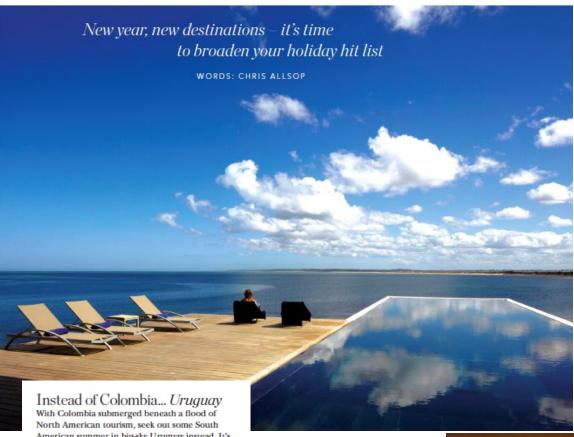


NEW HORIZONS







"Playa Vik is as much modernist sculpture park as boutique hotel"

inside, the outside is all about enjoying the endless ocean vistas and warm sea breezes, whether you're in the open-air restaurant or relaxing in the infinity pool angled towards the curving sands of Playa Mansa below.

From \$600 (approx. £450) per night, playavik.com

North American tourism, seek out some South
American summer in big-sky Uruguay instead. It's
well worth a few days wandering Montevideo's
jacaranda-lined streets and experiencing the tango
bars and smoking parrilladas (grill rooms), but
don't lose too much time before getting to the
coast. It's good country for a road trip, as the
contrasts between resorts such as gleaming Punta
del Este and scruffy Cabo Polonio are striking. The
beach culture is eccentric and welcoming, and for

surfers it's a trove of secret spots. The influx from

Argentina in high summer means popular resorts

like Punta del Este become rather cheek by jowl, so

consider going February to the start of April for the vibe – and the weather – without the crowds.

Stay: Playa Vik José Ignacio
A gilded beach house for the European and
American A-list, Playa Vik can come across as
much modernist sculpture park as luxury
boutique hotel. Designed by Uruguayan
starchitect Carlos Ott, the six glass-walled and
grass-roofed casas are awash with abstract art and
sculpture-cum-furniture. Bright and fun on the

