

BREATHE IN BLUE

A contemporary retreat at the waters edge in glass and stone – sweeping views of the Uruguayan coastline beckon you to visit

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One of the six stone and wood casitas that dot the “L” shaped resort. Fully retractable windows slide into the walls allowing the rooms to become one with the private gardens and open out to an outdoor terrace and barbecue area. The curved top hosts a living roof that adds to the architectural statement of the building



Above The Casa Mar Ola living room sees a play of textures – from handpainted lapacho floors, a contemporary stone and brick fireplace to the woven wicker basket that makes a portable storage for magazines and papers **Below, from Left** An Agatha stone pebbled wall separates the bedroom from the private terrace in the Casa Elbano Sycamore suite; The Casa Mar Ola living room gives you the blues, albeit a happy shade. The plush velvet sofa with printed cushions invites you to lounge while the Ola by Javier de Aubeyson creates a stunning, fluid backdrop

Above In Casa Raices, the graphic strokes of Exodus by Pablo Casacuberta in the background come alive with the muted sofa and dark wood lapacho flooring, playing the perfect complements **Below, from Left** The Casa Mar bathroom is a lesson in rustic chic with its handmade, stone basin counter and walls clad in rough, unfinished slabs; A classic, carved headboard adds a feminine touch to the Casa Mar bedroom while words from Success by Ralph Waldo Emerson alongside a painting by Carlos Musso completes the setting



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Perched atop one of the most coveted points on the coast, renowned for its pristine beaches, rugged landscape and breathtaking sunsets – the Playa Vik retreat by Carlos Ott commands attention. A 55 foot sliding glass wall captures the majestic views of the vibrant shore, while a two-storeyed curved surface fitted with a modern interpretation of Ghiberti's legendary doors at Florence's Baptistery by artist Pablo Atchugarry, lead you to the main frontage of the central "sculpture" building. Striking artworks by Zaha Hadid, Anselm Kiefer and James Turrell dot the lateral surfaces made of curved titanium panels, whilst rich lapacho wood floors flow throughout the expansive indoor and outdoor spaces. Housing the communal living and dining area, library, four bedroom suites and a state-of-the-art kitchen by Strato Cucine – the main structure is an ode to contemporary design. Handmade Japanese parchment floats between suspended panels in the corridors and traditional shoji doors separate the lounge and study. A fibre optic lit celestial map of the Southern hemisphere adds glamour to the 75 foot pool of black Nero granite, at a height of 32 feet above the beach garden.

Six small casas surround the "sculpture" building in an "L" shaped pavilion. Large bougainvilleas grow towards the living roof dotted with local wild flowers. Retractable windows lead out to private gardens, while a fireplace, ebony macassar ceilings and handpainted floors create a cosy nook inside. To save space, a playroom, gym, spa and 40 foot wine cellar have been carved out beneath the casas. An indoor eatery with a unique stone divider made of Agatha stone pebbles and rough-hewn lapacho floors lead out to the terrace that conveniently sits next to the beach. Seating close to 60 guests, a large log of cinnamon wood functions as a table allowing a traditional fire pit to take centre stage. Use of solar and wind technology, recycled water and maximisation of natural ventilation are just some of the steps the luxurious haven has taken towards being self sustaining. ♦



From Top At 32 feet above the garden, a swim to the tip of the 75 foot cantilevered pool in black Nero granite guarantees an even more spectacular view of the sunset; Rough-hewn lapacho floors and comfortable seating around the traditional brasero (fire pit) make the terrace a popular meeting spot for souls eager to enjoy the vistas and delicious barbecues **Left** An oversized, stand-alone beech wood bathtub sits in harmony with the overall minimalist bathroom, while double mirrors maximise the panoramic views outside

