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BORN IN BRAZIL

A warm welcome from the most exciting country on earth

NASCIDA NO BRASIL
 With Portuguese translation

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LOST OSCARS

Niemeyer's neglected classics

Brazil's book boom, the new garota and the insider's guide to the best beach in the world





1. MI CASA SU CASA *Casa Seu Irenio, Trancoso*

Wilbert Das, former creative director of Diesel and owner of the Uxua Casa resort, a stylish hideaway in a village on the Bahian coast, has recently opened up his private villa, Seu Irenio. Named after the village's magician, who used to live there, it offers four suites, and guests have full use of all the hotel facilities, including the aventurine quartz swimming pool. **Sara Henrichs** (Uxua Casa, Quadrado, Trancoso, Bahia, Brazil), tel: 55.73 3668 2277, uxua.com. Rates: from £782 per day



2. FRENCH FANCY *Insolito Beach Club, Búzios*

Nearly half a century after Brigitte Bardot turned the world's attention to Búzios, another beautiful French woman has piqued our curiosity with a long overdue alternative to the resort's iconic Casas Brancas hotel. Last year, entrepreneur Emmanuelle Meess de Clermont-Tonnere opened the Insolito hotel, a boutique charmer with views of Ferradura Beach. She has followed this up with a smart new beach club on the sands below her private villa. Open only to hotel guests, the club, like the hotel, makes good use of native design elements, like the reclaimed tree trunk that serves as the restaurant bar (above). The comprehensive list of champagnes is no surprise, but the watermelon caipiroska infused with raspberry vodka certainly is. For a more, barefoot-chic beach vibe, check out nearby Rockal (www.rockalfish.com), a lounge and restaurant housed in a charming wooden shack, serving cocktails and freshly caught fish.

Paula Bezerra de Mello
Praia da Ferradura, Rua Er, Lotes 3 and 4, Condomínio Atlântico, Búzios, Brazil, tel: 55.22 2623 2172, www.hotelinsolito.com



3. EMERALD COAST *Ponta dos Gauchos, near Florianópolis*

Perched on a remote ridge on the southern Brazilian coast, Ponta dos Gauchos was already considered one of the country's finest resorts before owner Nicolas Peluffo began the process of turning it into a more ecologically sound, more luxurious version of its former self. Original architect Elianne Klenner returned for the overhaul, adding five new Emerald Villas, which incorporate solar heating panels and rainwater collection systems, as well as verandas with daybeds and plunge pools. The huge Special Emerald

Villa (above) has a bathroom and a Jacuzzi with ocean views, and a deck with a lap pool. Peluffo has made changes at the beachfront restaurant, too, getting celebrated South American-based chef Laurent Susudeau to redesign the menu with a focus on health and local ingredients, such as the area's fabulous oysters. **Scott Mitchem**
Rua Eupídio Alves do Nascimento, Governador Celso Ramos, Santa Catarina, Brazil, tel: 55.48 3262 5000, pontadogauchos.com.br. Rates: from \$700