



Harper's BAZAAR

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TRAVEL GUIDE 2010


The ultimate round-up of the world's
chicest hotels, resorts & private hideaways

A bright, airy interior of Casa Turquesa featuring a white sofa, a wooden side table, and a blue door. The room is decorated with framed pictures and a small plant.

BEST FOR HIPSTERS **NEW**
Casa Turquesa, Brazil

Until the 1960s, Paraty was only accessible by boat, the cobbled streets and fine colonial villas protected from the open sea by a cluster of islands where Brazil's billionaires built their James Bond-style lairs. Now it's where fisherman and fashionistas mingle, particularly at the hip new hotel in town, Casa Turquesa, housed in a two-storey 18th-century townhouse. Each of the nine bedrooms has a different, vibrant colour as its theme, and there are wonderful views of the bay, the famous rooftops of Paraty, the mountains and the dome of the historic church of Santa Rita where, come dusk, swallows swoop and glide.

From £278 a room a night B&B (minimum of two nights) with Cazzenove+Lloyd (020 7384 2332; www.cazloyd.com).

A view of the exterior of Casa Palma, showing a balcony with a blue door and a white railing, overlooking a courtyard with a fountain and a building with a dome.

BEST FOR COLONIAL CHARACTER **NEW**
Casa Palma at Casa de Sierra Nevada, Mexico

It is impossible not to be captivated by San Miguel's cobbled labyrinths, fountained courtyards, gardens and fine colonial architecture. Many find it a wrench to leave, and the city has become 'Makeoversville', a place to reinvent yourself or indulge a mid-life crisis. If you are only passing through, the preferred hotel is Casa de Sierra Nevada, six adjoining villas dating from the 16th century. The hotel has just unveiled its own makeover, adding Casa Palma, a 19th-century mansion converted into six suites, which adjoins the pool and has access to the hotel's facilities and services. The decor pays homage to colourful local tradition in textiles and handicrafts. Mod cons run to under-floor heating, flatscreen TVs, iPod docks and heated outdoor plunge pools. From the terrace of the Presidential Suite, you can drink in the San Miguel skyline with its roofs and bell towers, and reflect on the city considered the heart and soul of the Mexican identity.

Five nights, from £1,952 a person B&B, including flights with British Airways and transfers, with Original Travel (020 7921 4000; www.originaltravel.co.uk).

