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CHRISTINA AGUILERA

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An aerial photograph of a coastal town in Brazil, likely Rio de Janeiro. The town is built on a steep, green hillside, with numerous houses and buildings. In the foreground, there is a rocky coastline with a small beach and turquoise water. A large, prominent mountain with a flat top dominates the background under a clear blue sky. The text 'TURN UP THE HEAT' is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom of the image.

TURN UP THE HEAT

There's more to Brazil than caipirinhas, carnival and bronzed, Gisele-like bodies. The people, the coastline, the food, the vibe... there's nowhere hotter right now

By Lisa Durant



The Bahia coastline and, below, one of Fazenda da Lagoa's bungalows

The eco-chic hideaway

Fazenda da Lagoa, near Ilhéus, Bahia

Even if you're not the sun-lounger type, this secluded resort will have you kicking back in no time. As you sail across the private lagoon (after a drive through the rainforest), just the sight of the sunset over Fazenda da Lagoa (rooms from about £325) will calm you.

Everything here is artfully cool, from the landscape to the rustic-chic furniture, accented with bright splashes of colour – interior designer Mucki Skowronski knows how to do nonchalant luxe.

With just 14 bungalows dotted about, you can happily avoid other guests for days and do nothing but swim, ride bikes and picnic by the lagoon. The roar of the sea is the only sound and with seven miles of pure, white sand as far as you can see, you'll never want to leave. Jade Jagger has been spotted here and the rich crowd pop in for lunch by helicopter.

Packing list: a stack of books, a tan-potential bikini and kaftans to accommodate the yummy food.



Bungalow chic



The pool and, right, the attached wood and lantern lobby



Rustic retreat

The stylish home-from-home

Casa Turquesa, Paraty

Don't let the four-hour trip from Rio or São Paulo put you off. The coastal drive is an experience in itself and, once you reach Paraty, with its pastel houses, cobbled streets and artistic vibe, it's easy to see why it's one of Brazil's hottest destinations.

The shutter-adorned Casa Turquesa (rooms from about £290) has only nine rooms, making you feel like you're staying in the owner's very stylish house, with branded Havaianas, huge comfy beds and amazing breakfasts.

Just outside your door, there are dozens of boats ready to tour the coastline's many islands. Pack a picnic and spend the day snorkelling and exploring, or hike through the rainforest to find the hidden waterfalls. Head back to the hotel for early evening, where the owner will welcome you with a house cocktail and her tales of Paraty.

Packing list: cobble-proof shoes, a great camera and a roomy suitcase to take back some local art.



On the house



The Master Room in White and, left, its terrace view. Above, Casa Turquesa

VIP BRAZIL Whether you're a Brazil virgin or you want a holiday of a lifetime, travel specialist Dehouche (0871 284 7770; dehouche.com) has it covered. Based in Rio, it's the ultimate travel service for South America and can create any trip you dream of – from kayaking down the Amazon to guest-list access to the hottest parties. A go-to for the rich and famous for its slick service, Dehouche has the Brazilian experience wrapped up. For the trip featured here, prices start at about £4,600 per person, including flights from London. ■