



Brazilian Beauty

With its colonial architecture and dramatic jungle-meets-ocean scenery, the Brazilian town of Paraty (pronounced par-ah-CHEE) is the jewel of Costa Verde, which runs 325 miles between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. For Gustavo and Gisela Assis, the husbandand-wife duo behind the Brazilian eyewear label Lapima, it's a second home: both have been visiting the town since childhood, and they even got married in a beach house there in 2006. Here, their recommendations on where to eat, stay, and surf.

- AS TOLD TO SIOBHAN REID

"PARATY'S WATERFRONT IS A UNESCO World Heritage site, with cobblestoned, pedestrian-only streets and whitewashed 17th-century buildings. Casa Turquesa (casaturquesa.com.br; doubles from \$269) is a charming inn in the center of the action. The service is impeccable and you can sit by the pool and order a home-style breakfast at any time of day. Because of the town's hipple past, many artists live here—and several of them open up their ateliers

From top: Gisela and Gustavo Assis, the couple behind the Lapima sunglasses brand; bar seating at Casa Turquesa.







Fishing boats in Paraty's Ilha Grande Bay.

to visitors. In the historic center, ceramist Daloir Ramiro (fb.com/dalcir.ramiro) is known for his ornamental clay mobiles, and Mexican-born artist Patricia Sada (patricia sada.com) creates beautiful acrylic-covered objets using the leaves of the guapuruvu tree.

"For a casual lunch, check out Le Gite d'Indaiatiba (legitedindaiatiba.com.br; entrées \$25-\$38), a French-Brazilian restaurant tucked high in the mountains and surrounded by waterfalls. It's not uncommon to see people taking a swim while they wait for their table.

"Paraty is surrounded by a constellation of islands that can be reached by speedboat. Don't miss Saco do Mamanguá, Brazíl's only tropical fjord, which has small, secret beaches and crystal-clear swimming holes. Farther south, you'll find great surfing beaches like Cajaiba and Ubatuba, both of which have reliably good waves and very few people.

"Banana da Torra (restaurantebananadaterra.com.br; entrées \$16-\$19) is an authentic Brazilian restaurant in the center of Paraty. In this region, bananas are used in everything—at this upscale spot, you can have bananas in oxtail stew, on fresh fish, and in a pie topped with a scoop of cinnamon ice cream."

See Paraty by Sea

The town serves as a great jumping-off point for exploring the secluded beaches, Jungle-covered Islands, and mountain-ringed bays of Brazil's Costa Verde. And now that the Moorings, one of the world's biggest charter-yacht operators, has opened a base

in the historic town, there's even more reason to set sall. Experienced seafarers can charter the 41-to-50foot boats on their own, or the Moorings can hook you up with a captain for a weeklong trip. moorings.com; from \$4,253 per charter per week. - Paul Brady