



## PUNTA DEL ARTE

**URUGUAY** Punta del Este is South America's answer to St.-Tropez: a rugged landscape swooping down to wide sugar-sand beaches and attracting an elite crowd who seem to watch the Great Recession go by from the windows of their private jets. But with the debut of the 4,000-acre **Estancia Vik José Ignacio**, a bit of light is shining into this closed society. At the heart of the working ranch, one town removed from Punta's jet-set scene, is a 50,000-square-foot monument to Uruguayan

art and culture: a hotel with twelve guest rooms individually designed by local artists. Nudes by Jose Trujillo decorate one 500-square-foot suite; nature prints by Carlos Barea brighten another. Guests from Arizona to Zihuatanejo are encouraged to make new friends, so cocktails are served in the expansive living room, where a Pablo Atchugarry marble sculpture rules (left), and communal meals are presented around a traditional barbecue pit in a tin room painted by celebrated artist Marcelo Legrand (above). In fact, an artist is almost always dropping by the estancia, which means that a local celebrity is often on hand for a horseback ride or a tour of the barrel-vaulted wine cellar—or, perhaps, to welcome a new fan to his underexposed homeland. *Suites from \$500. 011-598-94-60-5212; estanciavik.com.*

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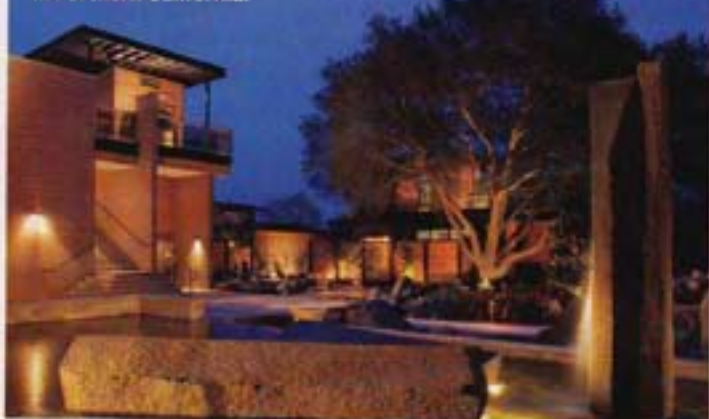


## California Greening

**NAPA VALLEY** Being environmentally conscious is undeniably a good thing, but following through can be a bit like eating your vegetables. The recently opened **Bardessono Hotel, Restaurant & Spa**, in the Napa Valley town of Yountville, however, is a remarkable exception. Guests are greeted by a playful floor-to-ceiling wall of shaggy air plants in the entryway, while ample stone and reclaimed timber provide a soothing backdrop. The four low-slung, solar-powered guest buildings form an intimate village of sixty-two comfortably minimalist rooms loosely organized around a lush inner courtyard. There is a notable absence of wasteful goods, such as carpets, bedspreads and drapes; even the staff uniforms are composed of what once were Yohji Yamamoto frocks. It all adds up to an eco-resort so stunning that you'll forget it's mostly recycled. Eating your greens never felt so good. *Doubles from \$300. 6526 Yount Street; 707-204-6000; bardessono.com.*

TED LOOS

Bardessono's open-plan stone courtyard, in northern California.



## Italy With Purchase

*Free trip to Italy, anyone? To celebrate the launch of **Damiani's 85th Anniversary Gomitolo collection**—eighty-five numbered pavé-diamond and multicolored-gemstone rings (above; from \$7,740) inspired by twelve Italian cities—the preeminent jewelry company is taking the “gift with purchase” idea to a whole new level. Through New Year's Eve, those who invest in a sparkling bauble are granted a complimentary three-day trip to Italy, including airfare and hotel. Escape to the city of your choice, and keep the memory of your adventures on your finger forever. **800-DAMIANI; damiani.com.***

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