## CENTURION

## BLACKBOOK DESTINATIONS —

## URUGUAYAN ESCAPE

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Nestled between the dunes, the latest Vik retreat on the country's south coast is a perfectly judged gem

Thirty kilometers east of Punta del Este, on Uruguay's southern coast, the fishing village of José Ignacio has emerged as one of the chicest destinations in Latin America. The international jetset explore its uncluttered beaches on horseback, cycle to the sparkling Laguna Garzón and sip white sangria while watching surfers hit the waves. They recharge in upscale retreats like the colonial-style





Uruguayan grey slate, the light-filled communal spaces – including spa, library and games room – flow from one to another and minimise the distinction between indoors and outdoors. Tucked away in the dunes behind swaying beach grass, each bungalow boasts a separate living room, plush master bathroom and airy, art-filled interiors.

Carrie and Alexander Vik, the visionaries behind the retreat, have commissioned a range of contemporary Uruguayan and international artists to create site-specific Estancia Vik and its more avant-garde sister property Playa Vik. Since October, with the arrival of Bahia Vik José Ignacio, the third Vik Retreat, they now have another luxe des res in which to unwind.

Bahia Vik José Ignacio is both bohemian and indulgent, emphasising contemporary beach living, as it unfolds over four hectares of sand dunes with stunning views over the Southern Atlantic. Comprising 11 bungalows constructed around a central building made of installations for each of the retreat's spaces, forming distinct locales within this already distinct property. bahiavik.com

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