



# ADVANTAGE

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VOL 13 ➤ 2021

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# THE TUSCANY OF URUGUAY

*Uruguay's sun-drenched countryside is the perfect home base to unplug, feast up and discover the country's artistic side*

South America's smallest country is making big waves. A favorite among the international jet set for its beautiful beaches, laid-back vibe and progressive culture, Uruguay is stepping into the spotlight alongside its more prominent neighbors, Brazil to the north and Argentina to the south. While the *beau monde* continues to flock to the chic coastal towns of José Ignacio and Punta del Este, travelers are starting to take note of the country's rural interior, where life moves at the pace of a slow-ripening grape.

"Pueblo Eden is a sleepy, charming town where you may encounter more people on horseback than in cars," said Tom Pyman, a travel expert at Black Tomato, a London-based luxury travel company. "It's very much an in-the-know spot, beloved by locals. The town square is the perfect place to grab a glass of homegrown tannat wine and watch a spectacular sunset."

Drawing comparisons to Tuscany and Napa Valley for its small-town feel and fertile sierras dotted with sheep and gauchos herding cattle,

Pueblo Eden is quietly humming with top-flight wineries, restaurants and a design hotel garnering worldwide acclaim. Only two hours from the capital city of Montevideo and less than an hour from José Ignacio and Punta del Este, Pueblo Eden is an idyllic wine country escape worth adding to any South American itinerary.

## A Pastoral Paradise

The four mirrored cabins of Sacromonte Landscape Hotel punctuate the pretty Sierra de Carape hills with what looks like a contemporary art installation. Rectangular smoked-glass façades reflect the bucolic scenery's sweeping green meadows, spring-water reservoirs, and undulating vineyards planted with tannat, merlot and cabernet sauvignon grapes. Sprinkled across the 250-acre estate, each shelter is a refuge offering privacy, peace and eco-sensitive luxury.

"We wanted the landscape, architecture, terroir, and sustainability to all work in

**Above**  
The Sacromonte Landscape Hotel has four glass cabins set within 250 acres of pristine nature

perfect harmony," shared owner Edmond Borit, who tapped MAPA Architects to create prefabricated structures that wouldn't disturb the natural environment.

Each steel shelter sits on a fieldstone foundation and features locally sourced timber, solar heat, recycled water, and living roofs. Large wraparound terraces boast private hot tubs and gardens, while interiors showcase master bedrooms and open-plan living spaces with kitchens, fireplaces and reading nooks overlooking spectacular views.

Accommodations also come equipped with off-road electric buggies to explore the property's singular sites, including a tiny avant-garde chapel hewed from cross-laminated timber; three eight-foot custom kaleidoscopes, and swaths of wild forest.

## Wine & Dine

Sacromonte's hilltop restaurant is centered around an open-air 40-foot communal table that plays host to authentic asados dishing up barbecued lamb, veal and wild boar, garden-grown vegetables, and Borit's portfolio of complex, elegant wines aged in French oak barrels. For further wine tasting, head to nearby Viña Edén, a boutique family winery set on a 16-acre vineyard growing tannat, merlot, marselan, chardonnay, and pinot noir varietals. Enjoy a private tasting with the winemaker, a three-course lunch or a wine-pairing picnic under a centennial tree. To sample high-quality olive oil, reserve a tour and tasting at Lote 8, a small batch olive oil producer set on a hilltop with panoramic views of the Eden Valley. Their extra virgin olive oils are harvested by hand and sold on the international market.

*"Pueblo Eden is a sleepy, charming town where you may encounter more people on horseback than in cars."*



**Top**  
Reflecting the stunning scenery, each cabin at Sacromonte Landscape Hotel is outfitted with mirrored glass walls

**Bottom**  
Pueblo Eden is quietly humming with top-flight wineries, restaurants and a design hotel garnering worldwide acclaim

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No one passes through Pueblo Eden without a meal at the charmingly rustic La Posta de Vaimaca, owned and operated by a local husband-and-wife duo. Dishes like lamb slow-cooked in white wine and homemade cheese and basil ravioli are downhome and delicious. Choto, a seasonal farm-to-table restaurant owned by Argentine comedian Fabio Alberti, serves up elevated dishes with country roots. Parmesan breadsticks and roasted garlic mayonnaise precede plates of charred vegetables and fire-roasted meats like chorizo and roast ribs smothered in house-made chimichurri sauce. Hidden down a long dirt road, it may be hard to find, but it's worth the effort.

**All About Art**

Acclaimed Uruguayan sculptor Pablo Atchugarry has the art world on the edge of its seat with the construction of Latin America's largest modern art museum. He tapped renowned architect Carlos Ott to design the new Museum of Contemporary American Art (MACA), located in Manantiales, Maldonado, in southeastern Uruguay. The monumental structure, evoking the silhouette of an ark, is crafted from locally grown Eucalyptus trees that are being molded in France and shipped back to Uruguay for assembly. The museum and sculpture park will house an art collection curated by Atchugarry, which spotlights both local and international artists. His mission is to create a free-to-enter, year-round attraction that becomes part of the cultural fabric of Uruguay. Be among the first to visit when it opens early next year. ◀

**Left page**  
At Sacromonte, the large 40-foot table is ideal for open-air meals and wine tastings on the hillside with an unparalleled view of the landscape

**Right page (top)**  
Soak up sierra views while enjoying peaceful hikes and horseback riding on trails throughout the valley

**Right page (bottom)**  
Specialties include wood-fired lamb, veal and wild boar served with seasonal vegetables and a range of oven-baked fare

