

# COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

JUNE 2015 £3.60

## SHOW TIME

*The summer fairs  
are coming to town*

## ELIZABETH HURLEY

*A right royal revival*

## PLAIN SAILING

*Wonderful water-  
front properties*

*The* **ARTS**  
issue

**PLUS**

*Brazil's  
buzzing  
art scene*





# Escape from Rio

*Fiona Duncan finds four fabulous places to stay on the Costa Verde*



## 1 CASA TURQUESA, Paraty

Even the turquoise welcome cocktail is a thing of beauty. Awaiting each guest once they step from the cobbled street into this gorgeously designed pousada are a pair of pretty blue havaianas, theirs to keep. From now on, it's flip-flops or bare feet only as you stroll through the open-plan ground floor with sunken pool where five years ago there was an overgrown garden. You won't mind the no shoes rule, for it definitely helps owner Tetê Etrusco to preserve Casa Turquesa's immaculate looks and electric colours. The nine jewel-like bedrooms are divine; when you are ready to leave, you'll find a farewell gift on your pillow: a necklace – turquoise of course.

**DOUBLES FROM** £280. + 55 24 3371 1037; [casaturquesa.com.br](http://casaturquesa.com.br)



## 2 CASAS BRANCAS, Búzios

You might easily mistake Casas Brancas for a hotel in St Tropez: it has that indefinable, white-walled, rustic chic that the Côte d'Azur does so well. And it has pedigree: it was the first hotel to open in Búzios 42 years ago and is still run by the same family (who also own the see-and-be-seen Rocka Beach Lounge where you can people-watch from elegant loungers). Back in 1972, Casas Brancas had just four bedrooms; now it has 32, with blue shutters, gauze curtains and chic furniture, many with balconies overlooking Orla Bardot and the boat-strewn harbour. Though it's right where the action is, its elevated position means that it feels like a calm haven. There's also a small spa offering complimentary 15-minute massages to every guest.

**DOUBLES FROM** £190. + 55 22 2623 1458; [casasbrancas.com.br](http://casasbrancas.com.br)

## 3 CASA CAIRACU, Paraty

Strung out along the shores of the astonishingly lovely Bay of Paraty, with its backdrop of emerald mountains, are the discreet homes of fishermen and millionaires. Accessible only by boat from Paraty's pretty harbour, they include romantic Casa Cairacu, built by Anglo-Brazilian couple Simon and Fabiola, which makes the ideal combination of private home and spoiling hotel. Available

for two to eight people, it is fully serviced with cook, housekeeper and English-speaking guide. Stroll to the nearby restaurant or ask Miguel to take you for a barbecue in a deserted cove in his little sailing boat. Or simply swing in a hammock on the elevated terrace and drink in the views, especially sunsets, in this magical spot.

**DOUBLES FROM** £275, exclusive use; 0117 9467547; [casa-cairacu.com](http://casa-cairacu.com)



## 4 PICINGUABA, Paraty

A half-hour drive from Paraty brings you to a sleepy fishing village on a beautiful bay. No cars can reach Pousada Picinguaba; a ten-minute stroll takes you to the attractive blue and white house that faces a lovely pool and a wide terrace overlooking the sea. You can walk, kayak or paddle board across to the other side of the bay to a pristine two-mile long beach. The pousada itself is simple, artistic and laid back: the perfect spot in which to kick back and relax.

**DOUBLES FROM** £243, half board; + 55 11 2495 1586; [picinguaba.com](http://picinguaba.com)

*Steppes Travel (01285 601783; [steppestravel.co.uk](http://steppestravel.co.uk)) offer a seven-night Brazil itinerary, including three nights in Rio and four nights in Búzios from £1,495 per person based on two adults sharing on a B&B basis including flights and transfers; or one night in Rio, three nights in Paraty and three nights in Picinguaba from £1,740 per person*