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Don't forget Joatinga, long regarded as the Brazilian hills for Rio's movers and shakers. Those in the area are chirping with excitement about a smaller area of town, **Santa Teresa**, now Rio's hottest hang. In the Sixties the aristocratic inhabitants of the quarter fled to the city's beaches after massive flooding and we're talking crazy, wild Amazonian lightning) running. A stream of artists, writers and the odder took over the abandoned mansions and turned them into a shabby-chic bohemian enclave. Now this carioca village, with its wonderful crumbling

buildings, trams and higgledy streets, is undergoing a style renaissance, and it's buzzing with hip little finds. It's worth the long queue to visit restaurant **Aprazivel** (Rua Aprazivel 62; aprazivel.com.br), where chic Leblon society girls come to escape the beach scene. Shake your stuff at **Bar do Mineiro** (Rua Pascoal Carlos Magno 99) – a restaurant, bar, antique shop and art gallery in one, famous for serving a dangerous variety of cachaça (potent sugar-cane liquor). At the end of the night, stay at the villa **Mama Ruisa** (mamaruisa.com), run by über-chic Parisian **Jean Michel Ruis**, where doubles cost from £150 a night. The look is artsy elegance, with design books casually dotted about, antique sofas, old leather chairs and the odd piece of religious iconography. From the sexy pool you can look across the valley over the top of the favelas. If you prefer the more rustic and laidback, try another new kid on the block – boutique hotel **Relais Solar** (solarandesanta.com), where doubles cost from £80, owned by Cirque du Soleil founder **Gwenael Allen**. Santa, as the locals call it, is on the up. **Lydia Gard**



Be brief!
Embroidered bikini, £115, by **Cla Maritima**



Soap opera
Peridot travel soaps, £8, by **Nina Campbell**

Newsflash Want to find out where you can order the best Peking duck in Beijing? Or where to buy rose oil in Marrakesh? Look out for indagare.com, a clever member-based site where smart travellers, including **David Tang** and **Allegra Hicks**, share hot tips.

Did you thought you knew... **Dubai**

Who knows that... Dubai superlatives, a haven of income, six-lane mega shopping malls – age architecture, blowing projects of **Shammed** make 'City of the Future'.

People know that... It's happening at **Roberto Cavalli's** favourite, **Grosvenor House**, which has won oodles of awards for its unrivalled views, glam spa and serious restaurants. **Plácido Domingo** loves the new glass-encased Mexican restaurant, **Maya**, and Michelin-starred chef **Vineet Bhatia's** **Indego** is adored by the **Beckhams**. Then there's the rocking **Buddha Bar**, where **Will Smith** and **Ronaldo**



visitors annually, with 200 new hotels, homes on stilts, water parks and landscaped gardens – all built on man-made marinas and islands, including

cranes are working overtime to complete a multitude of lofty projects such as the **Burj Dubai** (the world's tallest building), **Dubai Land** (a waterfront and marina) and the **Festival City**, a 'city within a city' urban retail resort' featuring hotels and homes, shoreline clubhouses, 550 shops and 90 waterside restaurants. Phew! As Dubai plays God with nature, green campaigners express alarm. But it's full speed ahead at the **Dubai World Cup**, the world's richest horse race, now sandwiched between **Dubai Fashion Week** and **Cartier Polo** at the elegant new **Dubai Polo Club**, where fashion victims brave the desert heat to

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