



Trips of a Lifetime

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A GLOBETROTTER'S GUIDE TO THE LATEST IN TRAVEL

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Where to Stay in Costa Rica Right Now

From a stylish tented camp to a sun-soaked coastal enclave, here are four new reasons to head to this Central American classic. **BY MADELINE BILIS**

The rooftop pool and lounge at Santarena Hotel.

THE NATURAL BEAUTY of Costa Rica lends itself to accommodations that appear as extensions of their environments. With that and sustainability in mind, several new hotels are raising the bar for both

design and experience. In December, **Nayara Tented Camp** (nayaratentedcamp.com; tents from \$1,200), a highly anticipated safari-style retreat, debuts in a sloth sanctuary at Arenal Volcano National Park, where the animals are

free to roam as they please. Adjacent to the famed Nayara Hotel and Nayara Springs resort, the camp offers 29 family-friendly suites linked by footbridges across the rain forest. All have plush canopy beds and private pools fed by hot springs.

Amid the tropical forests along the Pacific coast, **Kasiya Papagayo** (kasiya.com; doubles from \$735, three-night minimum) opened last December as an adventure-focused retreat; walkie-talkies and headlamps are distributed at check-in. Its five sustainably built, ocean-facing tents rest on platforms above the local flora, leaving much of the landscape undisturbed. Nearby, **Santarena Hotel** (santarenahotel.com; doubles from \$220) opened in June in the car-free community of Las Catalinas. Most of its 45 airy rooms have balconies decked out in Cuban tiles, with views of the Pacific surpassed only by those from the hotel's rooftop pool, where a gin cart makes the rounds at sunset.

Farther south is **Kinkára Luxury Retreat** (kinkara.com; doubles from \$190), built on the slopes of the Talamanca mountain range. The wellness resort's 31 glamping tents are centered around a thatched-roof yoga pavilion and a garden. Seriously indulgent bathhouses feature indoor-outdoor rain showers; outside, you can take a dip in the waterfalls and wading pools that dot the property. 🌿

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The garden at Kinkára Luxury Retreat, in Costa Rica.



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A view of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, in South Africa.

South Africa's Secret Garden

An easy day trip from Cape Town, the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley is the place to go for pretension-free wine tasting. **BY MARY HOLLAND**

Stellenbosch and Franschhoek have made South African wines world-famous. But southeast of Cape Town, the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley (that's Afrikaans for "heaven and earth") is becoming a scrappy rival to those better-known appellations. With its own compelling Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, plus tasting rooms, restaurants, and whale-watching, this region—anchored by the seaside town of Hermanus—is worth a detour the next time you visit Cape Town.

Start your morning in Hermanus with a dip at Grotto Beach followed by coffee at **Betty Blue Bistro** (bettybluebistrohermanus.com; entrées \$4–\$8), a sunny all-day café. To explore the area, catch a ride on the **Wine Hoppers** (hermanuswinehoppers.co.za), a fleet of open-air vehicles that make a circuit of top wineries, or rent a car and assign a DD for a DIY tour.

Begin on Hemel-en-Aarde Road, a mountain-flanked route that meanders through the valley past terraces of vineyards. Stop first at **Creation Wines** (creationwines.com) for a taste of its reserve bottlings. A few minutes away, **Ataraxia** (ataraxiawines.co.za) makes a standout Sauvignon Blanc, and

nearby **Storm Wines** (stormwines.co.za) produces unfiltered basket-pressed wines in small batches. Break for lunch at the **Restaurant at Newton Johnson** (newtonjohnson.com; prix fixe from \$19), a swank, mountain-facing dining room serving seasonal dishes like West Coast mussels with herbs foraged by the shore. Then move on to **Hamilton Russell Vineyards** (hamiltonrussellvineyards.com) for a sample of its estate Chardonnay. At the luxe tasting room of neighboring **Bouchard Finlayson** (bouchardfinlayson.co.za), don't sleep on the Tête de Cuvée, a rich, bold Pinot Noir with notes of cherry.

Back in Hermanus, stroll the Cliff Path, which hugs the ocean for seven miles, and keep your eyes peeled for whales. Come dinnertime, snag a table in the intimate courtyard of the **Barefoot Cook** (barefootcookhermanus.co.za; entrées \$11–\$13) for crayfish pot pie and lamb tagine. Check in to the **Vishuis** (thevishuis.co.za; doubles from \$78), a collection of restored whitewashed fishermen's cottages with weathered wood furnishings, brightly colored throws and embroidered pillows, and wood-burning stoves. 🍷

T+L A-List travel advisor Tamsyn Fricker (tamsyn@travelartistryafrica.com; 404-414-0549) can help plan a South Africa itinerary that combines a stop in Hemel-en-Aarde with cultural excursions in Cape Town or a safari.