

BON VOYAGE



Boutique Hotels for the Conscious Traveler

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The Earth as Inspiration



Experimental eco-architecture, artists in residence, local generosity—Fazenda Catuçaba may have found a radical new way to make an impact.

In Southern Brazil, Fazenda Catuçaba is much more than a hotel: set on the edges of the Serra do Mar National Park, it is the doorway to understanding the awe-inspiring power—and fragility—of nature.

Set-up by Frenchman Emmanuel Rengade, this former plantation, founded in the nineteenth century, has been converted into a unique luxury resort. Given that Catuçaba means “good land” in the local Tupi-Guarani language, one cannot help but notice that nature thrives on the grounds of the estate: everywhere you look, there are chickens, cows, ducks, horses, and dogs. The hotel’s kitchen makes the most of the fresh produce collected from the estate’s permaculture vegetable garden. At Fazenda Catuçaba, art, design, architecture, and sustainable agriculture are all part of an effort to build environmental awareness. Inside the old building, guestrooms are decorated with local crafts and Brazilian-designed furniture. On top of a hill sits “Bamboo Cathedral,” a landscape project by designers Humberto and Fernando Campana. A serene ring of towering bamboo that visitors can enter, the project was conceived to allow visitors to reconnect with nature without any added thrills. Similarly, Geneviève Maquinay’s sculptures, crafted from recycled local materials, blend into their natural surroundings.

FAZENDA CATUÇABA





FAZENDA CATUÇABA



THE RUSTIC CHARM OF THE FAZENDA CATUÇABA STARTS WITH THE CORNFLOWER BLUE USED TO PAINT THE WINDOW FRAMES OF ALL THE ROOMS IN THE MAIN HOUSE HERE. FLOORS OF NATURAL STONE OR MADE FROM RECLAIMED WOOD COMPLETE THE LOOK.



THERE IS A BEAUTIFUL ETHOS AT THE HOTEL OF THE LANDSCAPE PLAYING AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THE EXPERIENCE OF STAYING HERE. GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE THE GROUNDS OF THE ESTATE AND TO RECONNECT WITH NATURE.

Another unique initiative, “Casas na Terra,” was imagined after an encounter with Marcio Kogan, the head architect at Studio MK27 known for his visionary approach to modern architecture. Radically different from the historic building, Rengade ordered the construction of a contemporary, eco-friendly hillside loft—the dwelling blends in with the natural landscape but also stands out like an ideal viewing platform. It was joined soon after by a modernist country home. Bridging the gap between modern architecture and environmental awareness, the initiative sends a strong signal about what can be done with a clear vision and a clean conscience.

This led to another architectural experiment with Brazilian-Uruguayan firm MAPA, the makers of Minimods—high-quality, fully sustainable prefabricated homes (or, in this case, hotel lodgings) that collect their own water and electricity, effectively taking them off the grid. Such an approach resonates well with the

village’s proximity to the Mata Atlantica rainforest, a unique ecosystem, part of which is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Since its conservation is essential for the future of the planet, Fazenda Catuçaba makes sure to apply and promote environmentally friendly practices on an everyday basis: waste and compost are managed on the property, the hotel uses only biodegradable products, and reusable drinking bottles are available everywhere. Moreover, social accountability is a reality in Catuçaba. Most of the hotel employees are locals from the village who have been trained by the hotel and are paid more than the average local wage, which has a positive economic impact on the entire region.

All in all, through architecture, education, hotel management, and environmental consciousness, Fazenda Catuçaba not only intends to take a leading role in the future of green tourism, it also wishes to bring the country closer to creative and social liberation.