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Casa Zinc, in the seaside
village of La Barra, Uruguay



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Secret places to stay for under £150



Uruguay

Casa Zinc **LA BARRA**

Designer and compulsive auction-hound Aaron Hojman chose Uruguay's coastal village of La Barra, which sits at the head of a 40km stretch of golden beaches and low headlands, for this idiosyncratic, six-room *posada*. Five-metre factory gates and a façade of corrugated zinc shield the two-storey brick building from a quiet residential street outside. Within, Hojman has stacked bookshelves with apothecary jars, valve radios and soda bottles, framed windows with wood lifted from a long-shuttered Montevideo railway station, and scattered distressed leather-and-wood sofas in the dining room and sitting room. It takes rare skill – and buckets of *chutzpah* – to infuse discarded industrial oddments with charm, yet he pulls it off with aplomb. The bedrooms are named for the objects and *mises-en-scène* within: a classroom pastiche in *Back to School*; the library-like *Biblioteca*; and the *Arquitecto* study, with its draughtsman's table, map chest and massive work bench. Hojman's penchant for the unadorned and untreated is so prevalent that mortise joints still bear the carpenter's pencilled notations; porcelain sinks, long-levered taps and free-standing tubs give the bathrooms the austerity of a hospice, but a very lovely hospice nonetheless. No one comes to La Barra to 'do' anything, exactly – particularly not in the year-end high season, when artists and aristocrats transform it into one of South America's most exclusive beach enclaves. Days flow by at a languid pace, a noontime breakfast and lazy afternoon at the beach segueing effortlessly into, well, the next day, but who can quite remember?

00 598 42 773003; www.casazinc.com. Doubles from about £90

India

The Rose **NEW DELHI**

Hauz Khas is a hip urban village in affluent South Delhi; like New York's Williamsburg or London's Shoreditch, it's a lively, scruffy area with plenty of designer ateliers, funky boutiques, bars and cafés. It's surrounded by Deer Park, one of the largest green areas in the metropolis, and the wonderful Rose Garden, from which this modern, 11-bedroom hotel takes its name. French hotelier Pio Coffrant's second property is just a few minutes' walk from the heart of the village and Delhi's 13th-century monuments. The whitewashed interiors are filled with light, the stylish contemporary decor spiced up with some delightful vintage pieces. It has a peaceful garden, a lovely boutique and a café, and is also used as a gallery space for artists in residence (currently showing murals, drawings, watercolours and a room installation by French artist Julien Segard). There is live music on Saturday nights, with African, French and Indian musicians playing jazz and Afrobeat; on Sundays there's a buzzy brunch in the café. Since it opened, in June 2012, The Rose has become a favourite with visiting European and Japanese diplomats, film-makers, artists, journalists and gallery curators. The rooms range from small (the cabin) to large (the loft); higher floors have views over the tree canopy, so are worth the walk up the stairs. A sprightly, plugged-in place to stay.

00 91 11 5450 0001; www.therosenewdelhi.com. Doubles from about £45

