

The FROM THE EDITORS AND BUREAUX OF MONOCLE MAGAZINE

ESCAPIST

• A JOURNAL OF PLACES LESS EXPLORED

SPECIAL EDITION • issue 04 • 2016

IT'S TIME TO GET A MOVE ON

We circle the world for the cities that will make you feel welcome. Plus: on manoeuvre with some Portuguese sailors and Rome's diplomatic club in all its sunny glory

1

BUFFALO

The great American city finds its wings again; here's how

2

THE AZORES

The Atlantic rocks that offer a whale of a time

3

HANOI

Find out why Vietnam's capital is ready to scoot ahead

4

PALERMO

The Sicilians deliver the good life despite you know who

5

BRNO

The Czech outpost that has made a most modern return

6

WELLINGTON

New Zealand's quiet capital has a lot to blow about

7

LIMA

From surf to ceviche: our guide to the city's winning ways

8

BAD GASTEIN

Meet the inn crowd in a spa town having a gentle makeover

9

MONTEVIDEO

Latam's most liveable, lovable and liberal capital

10

ST JOHN'S

Can the plucky outpost beat off the post-oil boom gloom?

THE MONOCLE RESTAURANT AWARDS: TOP 50

Phew! Time for a spritzer?

WE'RE HERE!

Where to head for a welcome embrace – and good business too

UK £10
USD \$18



0 2 >
EUR 19.50(GER)
EUR 19 (ITA)
EUR 20(BEL)
EUR 18(ESP)
CHF 29
SGD \$29.95(w/gst)
CDN \$20.00(usa)
AUD \$19.95

MONTEVIDEO DIRECTORY

Get to know the city's best spots to watch tango, sip whiskey sours and taste the finest steak.

Stay

Casa Roberto: A charming addition to Montevideo's burgeoning B&B offering. Set in a lovely colonial townhouse, the rooms are simple, comfortable and characterful. La Rambla and the sights of the old city are within walking distance.

1159 Maldonado
+598 2903 2507
casaroberto.uy

Hotel Carrasco: Once the most opulent hotel and casino in Montevideo, the grand beaux arts building was restored by the Sofitel group. Not far from the international airport, it is set in the upscale Carrasco neighbourhood and boasts wonderful sea views.

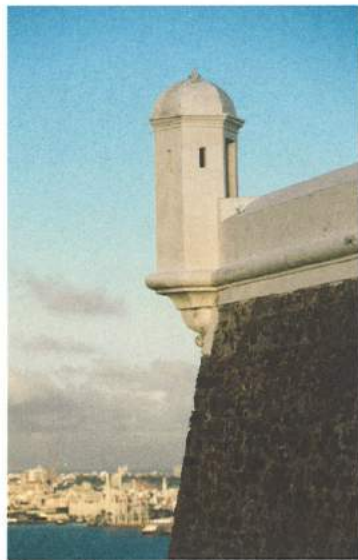
6451 Rambla República de México
+598 2604 6060
sofitel.com

Eat

La Pulpería

A well-regarded steakhouse. The tiny red-walled dining room is rarely empty and the extensive range of cuts of prime Uruguayan beef is a treat.

448 Lagunillas
+598 2710 8657



Dulce Tokio: Set in a beautiful old townhouse, Dulce Tokio serves the best sushi in town. The atmosphere is relaxed but note that it is only open from Thursday to Saturday. Pop next door to El Mingus for a nightcap of *grappa miel* and some live music after dinner.

1972 San Salvador
+598 9853 7723
dulcetokio.com

Bars

Candy Bar: One of the most charming new bars in Montevideo, set in the updated interior of an old storefront. Go for whiskey sours and the vegetarian tasting plates.

1402 Durazno
+598 2904 3179

Baar Fun Fun: A Montevideo institution, Baar Fun Fun opened its doors in 1895 and is still run by the same family. An older crowd comes for dinner and the cabaret shows, which include tango performances and warm-hearted singalongs of Spanish and Uruguayan classics.

922 Soriano
+598 2904 4859
barfunfun.com

Cafés

Café Brasileiro: Opened in 1877, this is one of the most evocative cafés in the city. It's still popular with Montevideans who come here to sip *cortados* during their afternoon breaks.

1447 Ituzaingó
+598 2917 2035
cafebrasileiro.com.uy

Shopping

Don't leave town without a bottle of Tannat Roble by the excellent Narbona Winery. Narbona's rosé is also excellent.

+598 4540 4160
narbona.com.uy

Getting around

The bus network is comprehensive. It is also an increasingly bike-friendly city and for those wanting to get around at their own pace, taxis are inexpensive.

Culture

Milonga: The *milongas* are real institutions: they're low-key dance halls where couples from every generation go to dance the tango. These venues are where many of Montevideo's professional tango dancers learnt to dance and sharpened their craft. Our

pick is JovenTango, which is tucked away in the Mercado de la Abundancia market hall.

1290 Aquiles Lanza esq San Jose
+598 2908 6813
joventango.com

Candombe: Candombe is a Uruguayan tradition of music and dance that derives from the cultural practices of slaves who were brought to the country in the 18th century. It was added to Unesco's list of intangible heritage in 2009. In summer it's performed widely along La Rambla; in winter you'll have to look a little harder to find impromptu performances.

Exercise

Begin your run from the lighthouse at Punta Carretas and weave your way along La Rambla, which has kilometre markers dotted along it so you can keep track of how far you've run. The end point of the beach in front of the Sofitel Hotel Carrasco is around 10km.

Open spaces

Montevideans consistently say that the city's seafront promenade La Rambla, which weaves along the city's 10-or-so beaches, is their favourite outdoor space, especially in summer. Many of Montevideo's barrios are effectively huge leafy parks – such as the Parque Rodó – and are perfect for meandering.

Don't miss

Carnival: Uruguay's carnival runs for 40 days from the beginning of January each year and is the longest in the world. Keep your eyes out for the *murgas*: the colourfully dressed opera companies that tell satirical tales of the past year.

Be warned

Language: Knowing some Spanish will be invaluable in Montevideo, especially if you're feeling intrepid and want to go off the beaten path. Most Montevideans will be happy to help you out, despite any language barriers.

Essentials

Uruguay's climate is mostly humid and tropical. It is one of the few countries in Latin America to enjoy four distinct seasons, therefore dress for the elements in winter (July to September) and as skimpily as you like in summer (December through to February).