

# Condé Nast Traveler





## THE BEST HOTEL IN BRAZIL

### PALACIO TANGARA, SAO PAULO

Thanks for this ravishing hotel are due, in a roundabout way, to an Italian-Brazilian industrialist-playboy of the mid-20th century known as Francisco 'Baby' Pignatari. He cut quite a dash in his prime: 'He drives fast, he flies his own aeroplane, he skis and he can swing from a trapeze,' it was once said. When he bought the land on which Palácio Tangará now stands – a 26-acre tract of native Atlantic forest, in the middle of the urban sprawl in São Paulo's south-west, rare even then and vanishingly scarce today – he had big ideas about what he would do with it, almost none of which came to pass. The property remained in limbo until it was taken over by the Oetker Collection and transformed into something marvellous. Seen from the gardens outside, the hotel is a pale, fairy-tale-esque apparition; inside, it is a wonderland of silks and suedes in muted greens, blues and yellows, sensitively orchestrated by architect Patrícia Anastassiadis. Young, well-heeled locals bring an irresistible buzz to the dark, sexy Burle Bar – and to Jean-Georges Vongerichten's airy, light-filled restaurant next to it. True, there are other terrific options closer to the centre of town – the Fasano, the Unique, the Emiliano – but Palácio Tangará is, in the most literal sense, a breath of fresh air. *By Steve King*

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CREDIT: ANNA MELLO