

Desert Living

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HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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<<< Imbibe Brazil

A bad meal can ruin a vacation fast. So VIP Brazil, a Miami-based luxury tour company, gives vacationers a personal chef and concierge to ensure that every meal is personal and every detail is accounted for. During the 10-day trek, participants will discover Brazil's most secret culinary attributes, experience the world through a local's eyes, and learn customs you otherwise wouldn't staying in a major resort. You'll sleep in private homes and villas, and all meals, drinks, entry and guide fees, plus ground transportation are included in the \$4,000 to \$4,500 price tag (groups of six or eight are encouraged). On the itinerary are some of the 365 islands of Angra dos Reis, historic Paraty, and of course Rio de Janeiro. Upcoming tours will depart on December 5, 2004 and January 10, 2005.

More: 800.772.9188; www.viptourbrazil.com

>>> Scotland Farm

You've had drinks at the Horny Toad, dined at the Satisfied Frog, but now it's time to get a Stoned Cow and purchase some Dirty Cow, Frisky Cow, or Lippy Cow bath and shower gel ... only you'll have to go to Scotland. The hip and sophisticated Scotsman Hotel in Edinburgh is now home to one of New York's most wildly unique spas—the Cowshed. Desert dwellers and home-on-the-range types will feel right in their element in Cowshed's "country chic"-inspired interiors. The Stoned Cow is a hot stone massage; the Salt Lick takes guests through body brushing and exfoliation using natural sea salt and Cowshed oils; and the basic massage with added intensity is, of course, called The Pummelled Cow. Cowshed is open to hotel guests and club members only. —MJ

More: +44.131.622.3800; www.escapehealthclubs.co.uk

