

Full Disclosure | Comporta, Portugal

TRAVEL | By MAURA EGAN | JULY 23, 2010, 11:27 AM



The beach in Comporta, Portugal, is decidedly mellow. *Herdade da Comporta*

About an hour south of Lisbon lies Comporta, a quiet stretch of Portuguese coast that some of the country's oldest families as well as designers like Jacques Grange and Christian Louboutin have turned into their secret summer holiday. Dotted with thatched fishermen cottages, pine forests and rice fields, Comporta doesn't look like much at first glance. And that's how sun-seeking summer residents would like to keep it. But a recent tour of the pristine beaches (much of the area is preserved by a private company, [Herdade da Comporta](#)), boho-style boutiques and the charming shacks that have been glammed up by families and fashion folks alike revealed that this hidden piece of paradise might be the next "It" destination on the Montauk-Jose Ignacio- Ibiza circuit. The Aman resort is betting on the same — it's opening a property here in 2012.

Marta Brito do Rio, who owns a Loja da Praia, in Lisbon (Rua D Pedros V; 011-351-912-53-8899), operates seasonal shops in Comporta. At her outpost in the Loja do Museu do Arroz store (Largo de Sao Joao, 011-351-927-153-677) she offers beaded necklaces and sundresses from the Brazilian cooperative Timoneiros, Panama hats from Ecuador and Moroccan straw bags. The main shop is run by Marcello Rangoni, an artist who divides his winters between Lisbon and Milan and picks up wares from all over the globe: slippers from Senegal, clothing from labels like Hoss from Spain, vintage Lacoste shirts. He also sells antiques as well as plants and flowers. Brito do Rio's other stall is in the nautical-themed restaurant Praia do Peixe (Praia de Pego, 011-351-913-061-256), on Pego beach, the area's most exclusive strip of sand. After shopping for Brito do Rio's funky finds like Ploko Pano bikinis and beaded cuffs made by the Masai tribe, shoppers head to the outdoor deck for regional staples like fish soup and grilled octopus and inimitable ocean views.

Back in town, Marina Saldanha stocks her shop Loja de Ca (Av 18 Dezembro n 39; 011-351-265-490-438) with baubles from her own travels: colorful Mexican hammocks, blown glass from Holland and carved wood sculptures from Thailand. Nearby, an old bakery (storks still build their nests on the buildings chimneys) is divided into two shops: Lavanda, which sells hippie-chic pieces by labels like Antik Batik and Twenty8Twelve (Largo de S. Joao; 011-351-918-474-869), and TM Collection, (Largo S. João, 011-351-265-540-497) which offers designs with a Japanese avant garde aesthetic: obi-style belts, kimono jackets and rubber bags.

For a long time, O Dinis restaurant (Praia do Carvalho; 011-351-265-497-023) was a low-key operation — just a few tables in the sand run by a charming local fisherman. These days, it's expanded into a proper restaurant, where locals while away their après-sun time with grilled sardines and Sagres beer. For more upscale dining, there's Museu do Arroz Comporta restaurant (Alcacer do Sal; 011-351-265-497-555), in a former rice husking factory, which also serves as the epicenter of Comporta's social scene. The owners Toze and Isabel Carvalho host many of the summer's parties on the terrace, which offers sweeping vistas of the marshy rice fields. They also have a sister restaurant, the more casual beach lounge Ilha do Arroz (Praia da Comporta; 011-351-265-490-510).