

ED travels



The pabellões at São Lourenço do Barrocal in Monsanto, Portugal

anticipate the slower pace and golden light of the Hamptons in late September and October. The usual long drive to the East End takes about half the time, making a last-minute stay twice as appealing at Momauk's **Hero Beach Club**, a clever reinvention of the old Oceanside Beach Resort (herobeachclub.com), or the laid-back **Crow's Nest**, which is owned by celebrity hotelier Sean MacPherson (crowsnestmtk.com). "The season in the Hamptons is

artificially short," MacPherson says. "Memorial Day to Labor Day—that's arbitrary, since it is just as beautiful in October."

The off-season Hamptons of Portugal—but with better wine—is Comporta, a protected coastline flanked by vineyards south of Lisbon that suddenly goes quiet at the end of the summer holidays. The area's nearly 40 miles of white beaches are the most beautiful I've seen in Europe, and I'm not alone: Designers Jacques Grange and Christian Louboutin both have houses in Comporta, and Vincent Van Duysen, the Belgian architect and creative director of Molteni&C, is building a home nearby.

I like to base myself at the **Sublime**, a hotel surrounded by sand dunes, cork trees, and umbrella pines. It opened



Sublime's suites and villa in Comporta, Portugal

three years ago and has a restaurant modeled after traditional rice warehouses, as well as several villas—the most beautiful of which are the dark-wood Cahana Villas. The Food Club, the hotel's pop-up dining room set in an organic garden, will stay open through October (sublimecomporta.pt). About a two-hour drive from Lisbon is **São Lourenço do Barrocal**, a striking rustic-modern hotel

designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Eduardo Souto de Moura, located on a 2,000-acre estate that has been in the same family for eight generations (barrocal.pt). There's a spa operated by cult Austrian brand Susanne Kaufmann, a winery, biking and hiking trails, and, of course, a farm-to-table restaurant. Plan to stay for a couple of serene, unhurried days. It's that time of year. ■



A suite at the Sublime in São Lourenço do Barrocal