



SUBLIME COMPORTA

The sugar-fine, bleached beaches of Comporta, empty as far as the eye can see, hold a particular charm, especially for the smartest Lisboaetas for whom it has long been a private playground. Now that Sublime has opened among the sand dunes and emerald rice meadows, there is at last somewhere to stay that's as lovely as the surroundings. Its 14 white-on-white rooms and suites – perhaps not ideal for tiny sticky fingers, but great for slightly older children – are spread between two low-lying, ochre-coloured buildings guarded by the area's indigenous umbrella pine trees. The emphasis here is on authentic simplicity, a back-to-basics existence (albeit a chic one) with a pool to dip in, kayaks and bicycles to take out, surfing off the coast and vivid lizards to chase between the three types of peppermint in the chef's organic garden. Minutes down the road is Cavalos Na Areia, aristocrat Jose Ribeira's riding school, a bucolic straw-filled stable of glossy horses and the odd donkey or two. Beginners can go for a slow morning hack alongside the lush paddy fields. Budding eventers can gallop at the water's edge at the end of the day as the sea rolls in and the sun sinks. Just as delicious are evenings at Sublime, when the fire pit roars into action and the local oysters are brought out. +351 269 449376; www.sublimecomporta.pt. Doubles from about £145

