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CLASSY COMPORTA

This chic coastal town, just a 90-minute drive south of Lisbon, is quickly becoming Portugal's hottest new destination



Madonna, French interior designer Jacques Grange and German artist Anselm Kiefer are just a few of Comporta's biggest fans. Celebrities and creatives, along with a hip local Lisbon crowd, are drawn to its blue waters and pristine white sands, tranquil pine trees, rice fields and modish accommodations. Limited public transport options shield Comporta from the partygoers of the Algarve region, meaning vacationers who make the effort can relax in style.

One of Comporta's signature activities is horse riding on the beach cavalosnaareia.com. Trot through the rice paddies before riding free along a seemingly endless stretch of sand. For a fully meditative experience, take a morning yoga class beforehand with Comporta Yoga Shala tomasmellobreyner.com (classes run in June, July and August). The afternoon can then be spent visiting a rickety yet photogenic jetty built on stilts at Carrasqueira or browsing the exhibits and artisan handicrafts at Casa da Cultura.

Comporta is known for its trawler-fresh seafood and can be enjoyed with front-row ocean views at Restaurante Sal restaurantesal.pt or in the center of town at Cavalariça cavalariçacomporta.com, which prioritizes local ingredients and sits in a restored stable. Taste local Alentejo wine at Herdade da Comporta herdadedacomporta.pt. Sample rice-inspired Portuguese dishes at Museu do Arroz (aptly translated to "Rice Museum" and housed in a former rice husking factory), which is tucked off a bay of the Sado Estuary National Reserve.

With Comporta's well-heeled crowd comes plenty of boutique accommodations. The eco-friendly Sublime Comporta sublimecomporta.pt is a standout and has 23 bedrooms and suites, plus a series of two- to five-bedroom cabana villas dotted across a 17-hectare estate. All villas have private pools access, and the onsite spa offers treatments using local rice and sea salt. The property also has an outdoor organic restaurant in the middle of its garden, which can be privately reserved for up to 12 guests.

Above
Sublime Comporta's Bio-Pool Suites provide guests with direct access to the refreshing waters

Right page (top)
With its thatched roof, Campo de Arroz pays homage to the traditional dwellings of the region

Right page (bottom)
Diners can gaze across the surrounding rice paddies from their table at Quinta da Comporta

WORDS Emily McAuliffe, IMAGES (left page) © Nelson Garrido, (right page from top) ©Alma da Comporta, © SLH



EMBRAER TIP
Take off from Teterboro, New Jersey in a Praetor 500 and arrive to Lisbon in 6 hours and 37 minutes. From there, it's a one hour and 20-minute drive to reach Comporta.

Nearby, Quinta da Comporta quintadacomporta.com specializes in wellness treatments, and along with its spa, offers yoga, meditation and Pilates classes as well as multi-day retreats. Floor-to-ceiling windows in the restaurant offer breathtaking views across the surrounding rice fields, particularly at sunset, and the wine cellar stocks more than 150 Portuguese and international wines. A sommelier can pair these with the Quinta's seasonal menu in consultation with the executive chef.

To connect with nature, rent a secluded beach house or cabin through Silent Living silentliving.pt. The Casas na Areia and Cabanas no Rio properties were renovated by architect Manuel Aires Mateus to pay homage to the area's traditional fisherman houses and are decorated with an elegant, minimalistic design. Alma da Comporta alma-da-comporta.com offers larger homes with its Campo de Arroz property sleeping up to 10 people, while Flor de Arroz and Casas de Arroz will sleep up to eight and 12 people respectively when they open in 2020.

Further north on the tip of the peninsula is the flashy Tróia Design Hotel troiadesignhotel.com, well known for its casino and views across the marina. The Tróia golf course is a five-minute drive away.

After a few days exploring Comporta and its surroundings, it's easy to see why this patch of the world has quietly made a name for itself amongst a luminary crowd. They might just have tapped into one of Europe's best-kept secrets. ◀

