

VOGUE

MAR

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WINNERS,
SURVIVORS...

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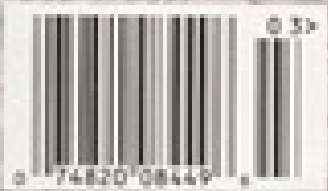
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PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

TRAVEL

Just northwest of Buenos Aires, the province of Córdoba is known for its great natural beauty. Seduced by the region's wide-open spaces, French hotelier Raoul Fenestraz and his wife, Stéphanie, recently acquired a pristine 420-acre tract and have turned it into a lavish twenty-first-century estancia called **El Colibrí**. The resort offers close to 60 mounts, four polo fields, and excellent programs of instruction for all levels of riders and polo players. The main house has nine luxurious rooms and suites, most with fireplaces and all furnished with good antiques and smart modern pieces. The public areas are particularly striking—especially the main lounge with its 25-foot ceilings, huge open fire, and knockout views of Córdoba Mountain. Besides enjoying equestrian pursuits, guests at El Colibrí can relax on the pink stone deck of the lovely pool, go hiking on miles of trails, help the gauchos with their ranching, take tango

home on the range

Estancia living is the most intimate and luxurious way to take in the Argentine countryside.

lessons, or play golf on three nearby courses, including Villa Allende, considered one of the best in the country. Doubles from \$380; 54-3525-465-888; estanciacolibrí.com.

It was the province of Salta on the edge of the Andes, with its majestic mountains, dramatic "pipe organ" canyons, and subtropical cloud forests, that seduced actor Robert Duvall and his Argentine wife, Luciana. Here the Duvalls found and restored a 100-year-old estancia with a sprawling ranch house and 300 verdant acres alongside the Arenales River. Their **House of Jasmines**—the grounds are rampant with wild jasmine as well as orchids and roses—features seven rustic-chic suites with beamed ceilings, white poster beds, wrought-iron chandeliers, and well-chosen Argentine antiques. A pondlike pool, a small spa, and a paddock of fine horses complete the

property. Doubles from \$125, including breakfast; 54-387-497-2002 or -2005; houseofjasmines.com.

A short drive on a small mountain road north of Jasmines leads to the enchanting village of La Caldera, founded by Jesuit missionaries in the sixteenth century. Here the **Posada La Caldera**, consisting of a 250-year-old house and beautiful gardens, has been in the same family for more than two centuries. A simple six-room hideaway, the house is tastefully decorated with a mix of family heirlooms, religious icons, and the rich hand-woven carpets for which La Caldera is known. A pool is also on the grounds, beyond which lie trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Doubles from \$54, with breakfast; 54-387-490-0032; posadalacaldera.com.ar.

About four and a half hours southwest of Salta city, the his-

toric Colomé vineyards and winery enjoy a ravishing high-altitude setting (from 7,200 to 9,200 feet) within the famously beautiful Calchaquí Valley. A year ago, Colomé owners added a glamorous boutique hotel to its extensive domain. A contemporary take on a traditional estancia, **Estancia Colomé** is a compound of low tile-roofed adobe buildings that include stables, gracious public rooms, and nine well-appointed suites with terra-cotta floors and fireplaces, and contemporary furniture. Besides its wine operations, Colomé has become known for its "biodynamic" farming methods, which means guests at the estancia dine on some of the freshest and healthiest cuisine in Argentina. Along with the usual horseback riding, hiking, biking, and tennis, the resort also offers insider tours of its vineyards and brand-new winery. Nearby, the mountain towns of Molinos and Cachi are two of Salta's most picturesque. Doubles from \$290, including all meals; 54-386-849-4044 or -4043; estanciacolome.com. —**REINHOLD ALTMAN** *pata* >425



GRAND CANYONS
THE SPECTACULAR
LANDSCAPE OF
SALTA. RIGHT,
A JESUIT CHURCH
IN CÓRDOBA.

