

The Smart Guide

A TIMELY ROUND-UP OF THE LATEST TRAVEL NEWS AND DESTINATIONS, GEAR AND GADGETS AND A HANDBOOK OF NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS AROUND THE GLOBE



Bucolic bolthole
Caballadas' Casa Grande lodge, a classic oak-and-stone structure at the heart of the sprawling ranch

BACK TO NATURE

Immaculate in execution, there's still something intoxicatingly raw about **Caballadas**, a rarefied hideaway, sequestered deep within the prelapsarian landscape of Patagonia's Lake District. Surrounded by craggy snow-capped mountains and rolling, araucaria tree-topped hills, the 20,000 hectares a family-owned retreat is one-part dude ranch, one-part haute hostelry. Up to 12 guests bed down in eight atmospheric bedrooms – each a rustic affair with wood-panelled walls, crisp white fabrics and perfectly framed, postcard vistas from the en-suite balcony. The hands-on activities might, for all that, offer the loudest siren call: whether you're traversing a shallow brook on horseback or fly-fishing for brown trout and rainbows on a lonesome lake, adventure is par for the course here. As the day winds down, what remains is a star-filled sky and a hearty plate of traditional lamb asado, fresh off the grill. A robust glass of rich, dark Argentine malbec in hand, it's a fitting epilogue to the day's intimate natural encounters. caballadas.com

✈️ *Aviador Carlos Campos Airport. 15 miles/25km*

