

TRAVEL + LEISURE

AUGUST 2003

The World's Best Awards

402

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FIRST TIME IN TOP 10 OVERALL

Santa Fe

CHECK IN: The new **Inn of Five Graces** (150 E. DeVargas St.; 505/992-0957; www.fivegraces.com; doubles from \$295), from the owners of the Point in upstate New York, has 22 suites eclectically decorated with Spanish antiques, Afghan dhurries, and Turkish kilims. Stick around for the afternoon margaritas.

AUTHENTIC EATS: Politicos and reporters dish the dirt at **Tiny's** (1015 Pen Rd.; 505/983-9817; dinner for two \$40), a kitsch-filled fifties cocktail lounge that serves the best chiles rellenos in town. Blues and rock lovers stop by Thursday nights, jazz aficionados on Saturdays.

BEST HIKE: The Nature Conservancy's recently christened **Santa Fe Canyon Preserve** (Cerro Gordo and Upper Canyon Rds.)

lets you explore the 20-mile Dale Ball Foothill System, which has breathtaking views of both the city and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. **DON'T MISS:** The city's latest attraction is the **Museum of Spanish Colonial Art** (750 Camino Lejo; 505/982-2226), which displays a priceless collection of retablos, santos, relief carvings, and ironwork in a 1930's adobe house.

—ANDREW COLLINS

FIRST-TIME WINNER IN ITS REGION

Rio de Janeiro

BEST BEACH: A 15-minute taxi ride from Ipanema, **Pepê's Beach** in Barra de Tijuca has cleaner water, softer sand, and nary a tourist in sight. Mix with the "in" crowd at **Barraca do Pepê** (Avda. do Lucio Costa; no phone), a small food and juice stand.



Downtown Santa Fe.

AUTHENTIC EATS: **Siri Mole & Cia** (50 Rua Francisco Otaviano; 55-21/2523-4240) serves eight varieties of Bahian moqueca, a seafood stew, including rock lobster, crab, and octopus. Top it with the fiery pimenta malagueta sauce on your table. **AFTER DARK:** Located in the once dilapidated Lapa district, antiques store **Rio Scenarium** (20 Rua do Lavradio; 55-21/3852-5516) is transformed each night into a music venue where locals dance

to samba amid old furniture and grandfather clocks. **DON'T MISS:** Skip the crowded cable car to the top of Sugarloaf and instead climb the 1,300-foot mountain with **Rio Hiking** (70 Rua Coelho Neto; 55-21/2552-9204). Afterward, reward yourself with an extraordinary nightlife tour led by the company's founder, Denise Wernec, that hits all the best secret spots.

—KEVIN RAUB

TOP: THOMAS HOECKER/MAGNUM PHOTOS; BOTTOM: STEWART FEREBEE



Overlooking Rio de Janeiro from Corcovado.

