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PREVIEW

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3. ART AND SOUL Mama Ruisa, Rio

Located in the hills of the arty Santa Teresa district - a retreat from the busy downtown beaches - this 19th-century palace has been turned into a seven-room hotel by French-born Jean-Michel Ruis. The suites reflect Ruis' eclectic taste, mixing French elegance with Brazilian design. The living room (pictured), with views over Guanabara Bay, features 1940s sofas, as well as a vintage 'Fardos' sofa and 'Galvota' chair by Ricardo Fasanello. Suite Jean Cocteau, with its original hand drawings by the French poet on the walls, offers the most privileged view over the bay and the Niterói coastline. Breakfast can be served in the porch, beneath coconut trees. Eugenia Maia Rua Santa Cristina 132, Santa Teresa, tel: 55.21 22 42 12 81, www. mamaruisa.com. Rates: from €230