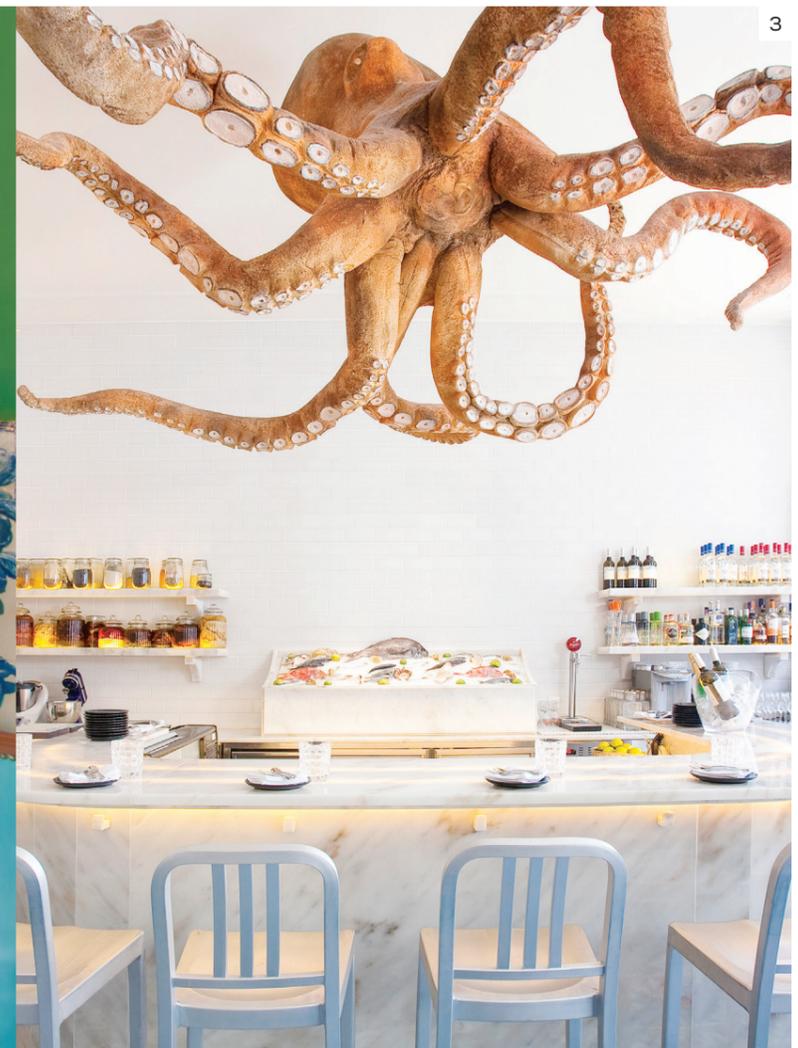


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1. CITY VIEWS FROM THE SERENE HILLTOP HOTEL PALÁCIO BELMONTE. 2. THE HOTEL'S MARIA URSULA BALLROOM. 3. AN UNEXPECTED DINNER GUEST AT A CEVICHERIA. 4. BELCANTO RESTAURANT'S IMAGINATIVE PORTUGUESE FARE.

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Clockwise from top left: Joe Condrion; courtesy of A Cevicheria; Boa Onda; courtesy of Palácio Belmonte

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# Lisbon, PORTUGAL

With old-world regality and Brooklyn-rivaling brunch joints, this seven-hilled city earns its stripes as Europe's next vacation destination.  
By Brianna Kovan

**T**his summer, homegrown hotshots like Katy Perry, Haim, Hailee Steinfeld, and Bruno Mars will join European rockers in Lisbon, Portugal, for a series of music festivals. The of-the-moment capital city hosts late June's **Rock in Rio Lisboa**, followed by this month's **NOS Alive**. "Lisbon is booming," says ELLE Portugal editor-in-chief Sandra Gato of the city's hip-destination status. "You don't even have to go back five years. In the last two years alone, it's changed a lot." (Madonna presumably agrees, having reportedly moved into an eighteenth-century Lisbon palace last fall.) In 2017, seven local restaurants received their first Michelin star, and the city's seen an explosion of rooftop bars and brunch destinations. Gato recommends the new three-story concept store **JNeQUOI** ([jncquoi.com](http://jncquoi.com))—pronounced like the French phrase *Je ne sais quoi*—which carries impeccably displayed designer menswear and whose restaurant menu devotes an entire section to regional cheeses. ("It's the most talked-about opening of the year," she says. "A must.") Nearby, the Peruvian eatery **A Cevicheria** (@a\_cevicheria\_chefkiko) offers citrus ceviche, while a sculptural sponge octopus hangs overhead for ambiance.

Located at the mouth of the Tagus River, tucked away from the Atlantic's rough waters, Lisbon is a terra-cotta-roofed metropolis famous for its mustard-yellow trolleys and *pasteis de nata* (custard tarts). On the highest of the city's seven hills sits the eleventh-century **São Jorge Castle**, whose Moorish architecture recalls the city's 400 years of North African rule. In various ways, Lisbon pays homage to its history while racing into the future. Currently, the city's design and fashion museum, the **Museu do Design e da Moda** ([mude.pt](http://mude.pt)), is hosting a satellite exhibit in the Belém district. Titled *Tanto Mar: Fluxos Transatlânticos do Design* ("So Much Sea: Transatlantic Flows Through Design"), the roughly 160-piece collection of objets d'art, furniture, and clothing explores the ongoing cultural exchange between Portugal and Brazil. "Lisbon has a very old soul," Gato says. "You have to come here to understand that."