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### THE OITAVOS

Portugal is at its best when you're standing by the sea, sucking up the feeling of space, the high skies, the crispness, the clean, diamond light. The Oitavos channels all of this. For the Lisbon crowd, this is the place to be seen this year, a 20-minute skip away from the city. Evenings and weekends are full of frisky friends of the owners, the rather glamorous Champalimaud family (all four of the children work in the hotel). It is strident and unabashed, clean and sparkling, white lines merging into the ocean, its interiors airy and filled with sun. It's a busy-bee resort – maraud around on a horse or play golf. The open-plan downstairs works brilliantly, letting you morph this way and that, but the 156 rooms do lack a little spirit. Nevertheless, they ride high with spaciousness and details: iPod docks, a proper desk, plus two flatscreen televisions and open bathrooms with huge showers and Japanese-style loos. The seaweed-based spa is fantastic – as is the scene – so stay here after a weekend break in Lisbon. **Book it Double, from** £119. Ring 00 35 1 21 486 0020 or visit [theoitavos.com](http://theoitavos.com).



your dignity first

Travel

# Sunny side up

Portugal hasn't always had the hottest reputation but suddenly it's become the European story of the year. By Mary Lussiana

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