

Casa Beleza

Santa Teresa is home to many nationalities, drawn to the Bohemian community that has settled here since the Sixties. The soulful sound of a lone jazz saxophone wafted through the open window of my room at Casa Beleza, owned by Bindu, a former BBC documentary maker, and Antoine, a musician, from India and France respectively.

They fell in love with Santa Teresa when they came on holiday, and bought one of the area's many lovely houses, with three pleasing rooms for guests. A fourth and fifth are secreted in the jungle garden, full of monkeys and even the occasional toucan. Bindu provides comprehensive written information, including "how to get a drink" (the closest establishment is the entertaining Bar do Gomes) and, crucially, "how to get home".

Rua Laurinda Santos Lobo 311, Santa Teresa (0055 21 2224 7403; casabeleza.com). Doubles from £65 per night, including breakfast.