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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

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ROARING RIO

Use your Platinum Card® from American Express for a full-on deluxe experience in South America's most intoxicating city

Visiting Rio de Janeiro for the first time is like greeting an old friend, for the names and places ring remarkably familiar, soaked up over time through tales, songs, films and images. Who hasn't heard of the toffee-hued beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema, whose perfect sandy curves are blessed by the outstretched arms of the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer? Separated by the surfer wonderland of Arpoador and demarcated by the dual granite peaks of Dos Irmãos in the south and the unmistakable rocky lump of Sugarloaf Mountain in the north, they claim the undulating lush greenery of Tijuca as a backdrop, a tropical rainforest within the city limits, criss-crossed by hiking paths and home to ocelots, coatis, sloths, armadillos and howler monkeys.

For the choicest spot on Copacabana, use your Platinum Card to secure a suite at the glamorous Copacabana Palace, the historic A-list abode that celebrates its centenary in 2023. Cardmembers can enjoy an upgrade at check-in, a late 4pm checkout, a daily breakfast for two and a \$100 spa credit for treatments including its signature Plenitude exfoliation, which uses Amazonian

fruit extracts. An excellent alternative just down the beach is Emiliano Rio, which offers the same benefits. This is a boutique, minimalist hotel with balconies opening to jaw-dropping vistas of the Atlantic, and a panoramic roof terrace with an infinity pool where you can enjoy a glass or two of caipirinha – a strong, sugary, Brazilian-style mojito with cachaça rum.

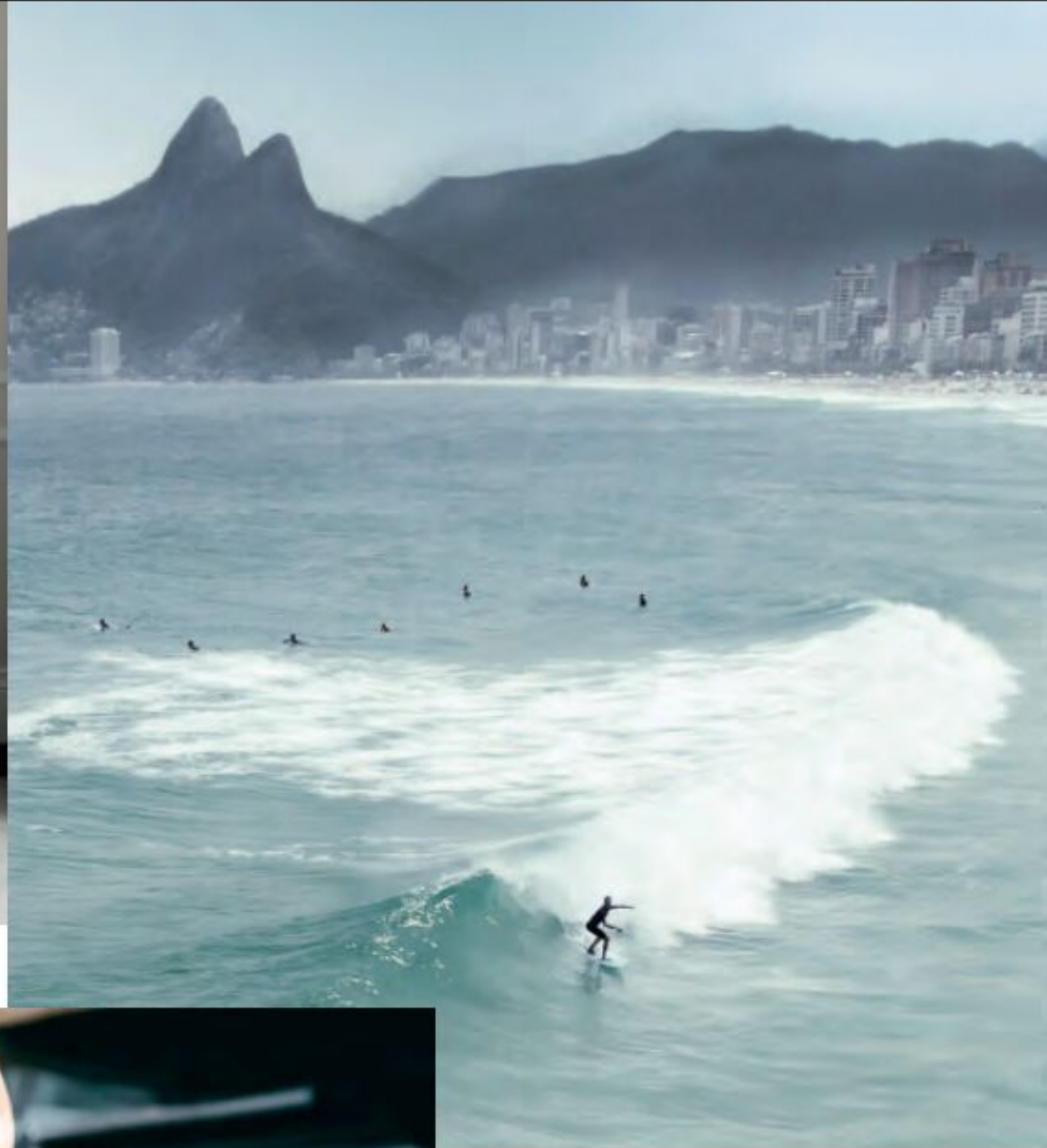
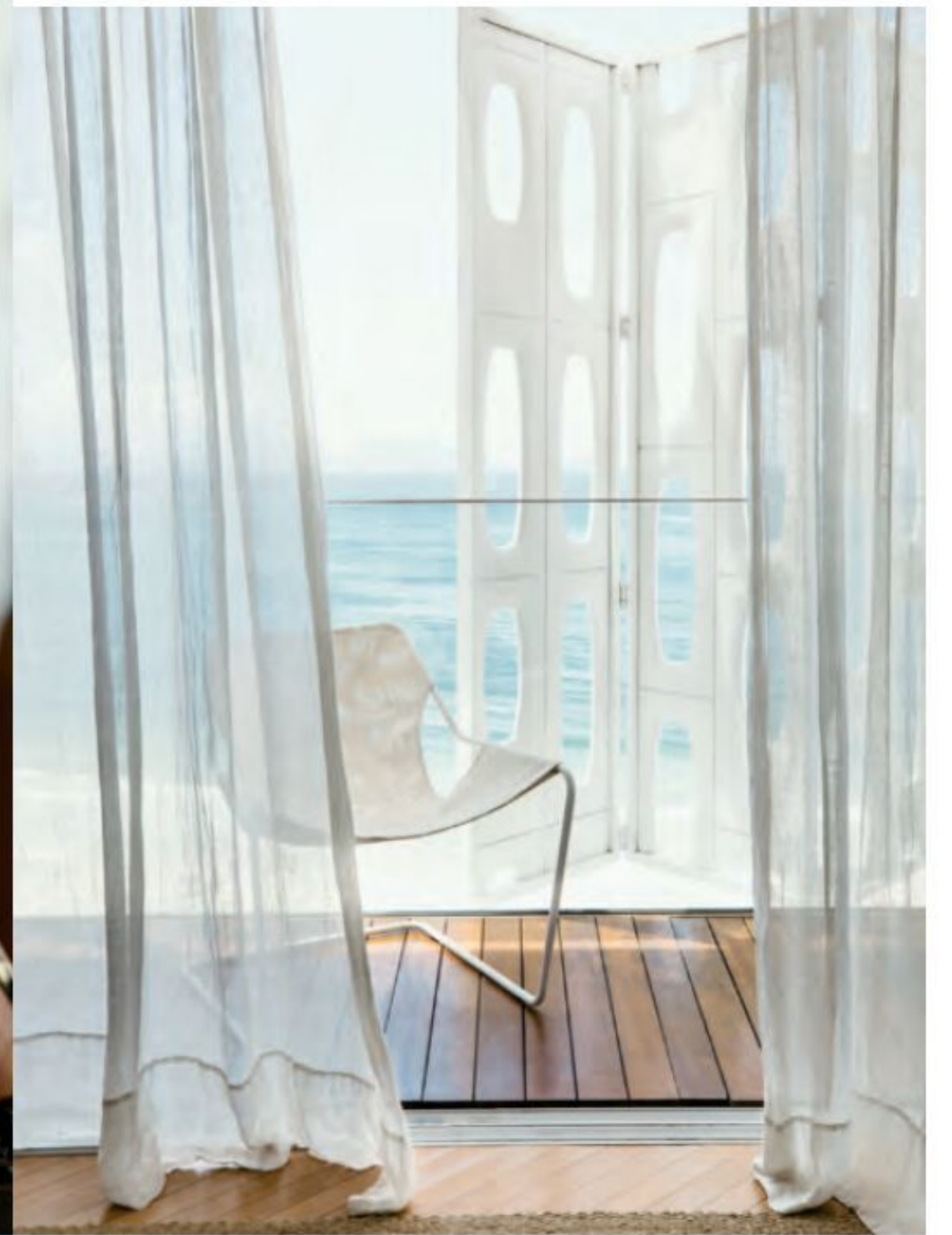
Rio is one of the world's cultural hotspots, so be sure to procure tickets to a football game at the legendary Maracanã stadium; enjoy the city's musical heritage by visiting a samba school; or see the city's skyline on a sailing excursion in Guanabara Bay. You can also take a tour of its famous landmarks and architectural marvels: the splendid eclecticism of Laranjeiras Palace, the Art Deco backstreets of Flamengo and the seminal modernism of Oscar Niemeyer's Sambódromo and Apotheosis Square.

Like in most cities in Brazil, Rio's shopping revolves around malls and one of the snazziest is Shopping Leblon, where well-known European labels such as Dolce & Gabbana, Burberry and Diesel rub shoulders with cutting-edge local designers like Animale, with its sophisticated women's pret-a-porter collection, Carla Amorim and her Brasília-

inspired jewellery, or the colourful rainforest-influenced dress patterns of Farm. Pay with your Platinum Card and enjoy stress-free shopping via a 90-day Purchase Protection*: if your item is accidentally damaged up to 90 days after you've bought it, you'll be reimbursed for up to £2,500 (exclusions and limitations apply).

In the evening, dine at Cipriani, the smart and imaginative Michelin-starred restaurant within Copacabana Palace, where Neapolitan chef Nello Cassese fuses Italian staples with Brazilian ingredients such as açaí and cupuaçu. More adventurous gourmands can try avant-garde Brazilian cuisine – oysters with caipirinha sorbet, perhaps, or pineapple kimchi – at two-starred Oro in Leblon, helmed by Felipe Bronze, arguably the country's most famous chef. Use your Platinum Card and you can earn points to redeem against anything you fancy in the future.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Clockwise from far left: Ipanema beach; Christ the Redeemer; shopping in Leblon; Emiliano Rio; Ipanema; shopping in Leblon; Oro restaurant; Copacabana Palace; Cipriani



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