

# VANITY FAIR

ON TRAVEL

## A Room with a Viewing

Far more than mere decoration, the artworks within this trio of hotels reflect the properties in which they reside.

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### Puro Vik, Chile



The bed in the Chihuly casa, created in homage to glass artist Dale Chihuly. DALE CHIHULY: © ARS, NY AND DACS, LONDON 2021/PHOTO: CRISTOBAL PALMA/VIK RETREATS

From Uruguay to Milan, the Norwegian activist investor Alexander Vik has sought to fill his six hotels, collectively known as Vik Retreats, with art, notably by contemporary Latin American, Italian and Japanese artists. The best are to be found at Puro Vik, which opened two years ago on his Chilean wine estate, south of the capital Santiago. Here, just seven discreet casitas, each a reflective glass box with a wildflower roof, are cantilevered out of a wooded hillside, carefully orientated for privacy.

Look out through the transparent walls, and all you see are the hills and wetlands of the Millahue Valley. Turn inwards, and each has been furnished and decorated in accordance with an art movement or style, or in homage to a particular figure: the glass artist Dale Chihuly, for example, and the holograph specialist Dominique Mulhem.

One has a Japanese theme: it's full of tatami mats, shoji screens and ukiyo-e (floating-world) prints by Utagawa Hiroshige. Another, the Letras casa, takes graphic art as its inspiration, hence a series of paintings commissioned from sign painter Mike Langley looms above the bed, bearing the words Amor/Love, Happiness/Felicidad, Sexo/Sex, Salud/Health, Pesetas/Dollars and Familia/Family. Elsewhere, the interior walls of the Boho Pop casa are hung with prints by Alexander Calder, Roy Lichtenstein and Tom Wesselmann to gaze up at from the Zaha Hadid Half Moon sofa.



The Boho Pop casa at Puro Vik, featuring the Zaha Hadid Half Moon ZAHA HADID/PHOTO: CRISTOBAL PALMA/VIK RETREATS

Puro Vik shares a restaurant, pool and spa with neighbouring sister hotel Vik Chile, which opened a few years earlier with 22 art-enriched but less secluded rooms. My pick would be Alvaro Gabler's Grisaille master suite for its grey-on-grey trompe l'œil paintings. And there is fine work to be found in the public areas here too, not least two paintings by the Chilean surrealist Roberto Matta, and a looming Anselm Kiefer lead-relief diptych from The Secret Life of Plants series.