

CITY SECRETS São Paulo

Born in 1899 out of post-revolutionary Mexico, Sol beer was a way of displaying *Espíritu Libre* – free spirit – for those who drank it. Today this always-refreshing lager is still a symbol of freedom, entrepreneurship and independence and the Sol Search initiative is the perfect representation of those values. This new discovery platform will act as an alternative search engine and curate a refined roll call of the best places to visit in cities around the world. Here the focus is on São Paulo, where there's a barber-shop that will transport you to the 1950s, a café-bar that doubles up as a record shop and a former garage that now serves tasty homemade burgers.

Sol Search: A search engine that filters out the mainstream and gives you independent results for cafés, bars, restaurants and more. The algorithm uses curated Monocle content to open up a world of inspiration. Visit solsearch.com

MANDÍBULA REPÚBLICA

Within months of opening, Mandíbula was already famous for having the city's best gin and tonic. With bare concrete and low lights the tiny bar, café and record shop plays a fine selection of rock'n'roll: think T Rex and Neil Young. Although the venue is on the small side there is a communal table outside and, because it's on the second floor of a gallery, you'll find yourself on a balcony overlooking downtown.

- 01 Rock'n'roll vinyls for sale
- 02 Drink, anyone?
- 03 Outdoor seating



MUSIC & MIXERS



BARBEARIA 9 DE JULHO SIX LOCATIONS

From the chequered floors and antique leather chairs to the classic rockabilly music, everything about this barbershop screams retro. In keeping with the 1950s-inspired vibe, customers are treated to face massages and rum-based lotions to hydrate the skin. There are six venues scattered across the city and attendance is on a first come, first served basis. The clientele ranges from on-trend students to 70-year-old regulars; a true gentlemen's sanctuary.

- 01 Barbearia 9 de Julho's retro exterior
- 02 Barber at work



CUTS & CLASS



COFFEE LAB VILA MADALENA

In a charming townhouse in the bohemian Vila Madalena neighbourhood is one of the busiest and most pleasant cafés in São Paulo. Its award-winning owner and barista Isabela Raposeiras has no waiters, just a team of coffee experts ready to take your order in an open kitchen – and teach you a few things along the way, if you're interested. Coffee beans are roasted in-house on a Diedrich machine and cakes and sandwiches are also served.

- 01 Experts on hand
- 02 Satisfied customer



COFFEE & CAKES



BEANS & BIKES



KING OF THE FORK PINHEIROS

The owners of The Fork have combined their two passions in this cosy two-storey house in Pinheiros: bikes and coffee. The monochromatic décor includes wooden tables and a burned-concrete floor; there is also parking for bicycles at the entrance and space for reading in the back. The menu offers waffles, quiches and plenty of other snacks; there is also beer, of course, to provide refreshment after a long ride.

- 01 Customers enjoying an alfresco get-together
- 02 Work of art



BEEF & BAPS



NA GARAGEM HAMBURGUERIA PINHEIROS

Ever considered turning your garage into a burger joint? This cosy restaurant in the upmarket neighbourhood of Pinheiros can seat around 10 people on stools with additional customers spilling out onto the pavement. Interiors and furniture are made from reclaimed wood. A lean but tasty menu includes a burger with carrot-and-parsnip sauce and rustic crispy potatoes seasoned with rosemary.

- 01 Lunch is served
- 02 The engine room
- 03 Crispy treats