

# Why Peru May Be the World's Most Sustainable Destination

Despite the South American country's explosive development of late, careful design measures ensure it remains in "the sustainability sweet spot"

By [Alyssa Giacobbe](#)

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Most of the stone work in the courtyard of Inkaterra La Casona, a former 16th-century manor, was refurbished by hand.

Photo: Courtesy of Inkaterra La Casona

Similar examples of environmentally cohesive design abound, from the low-lying, red-pigmented concrete [Museo de Sitio Julio C. Tello](#) at Peru's Paracas National Reserve, designed by Lima-based firm [Barclay & Crousse](#), to the new restaurant [Mil Centro](#) by [Estudio Rafael Freyre](#), built on the edge of the Sacred Valley's historic Moray Archaeological Complex, around an endangered Andean queñua tree, using local stone and adobe. (In keeping with the architectural ethos, the restaurant also grows much of its ingredients on-site.) When designing [Inkaterra La Casona](#) in Cuzco, on land that once served as training grounds for an Incan army, Peruvian designer Denise Guislain-Koechlin worked within NICP guidelines to retain most of what had been a 16th-century manor, repairing foundations, cracked walls, and gable roofs, and restoring original doors, windows, and wooden balconies—mostly by hand. Interiors were furnished with pre-Columbian and Spanish colonial crafts sourced from throughout Peru.