

## Summer and Winter in Paraguay

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*Terere, cold mate tea, drunk through a metal filter called a bambilla*

I remember well "Summer in the City" by the Lovin' Spoonful, and I remember very well what summer in New York City is like. I love it, agonizing as it is. New York is such a very colorful place. Right now, we are in winter. I believe that I described something about what our summer in Paraguay is like in muggy detail, last January or February, when nobody even ventures out of the house between 12 and 3 o'clock. People just hang around and drink terere, cold mate tea, drunk through a metal filter called a bambilla.

Winter is not terribly severe here in Paraguay. The houses are built for summer, so people suffer during the winter if they don't have a fireplace. It is different than in the States, where you have heating everywhere. Here there isn't any heating anywhere, so you are just as cold inside as you are outside, sometimes more so, because the sun doesn't come in too much. But the winter here is not terribly severe, and it rarely drops below the freezing point.