

Condé Nast Traveller

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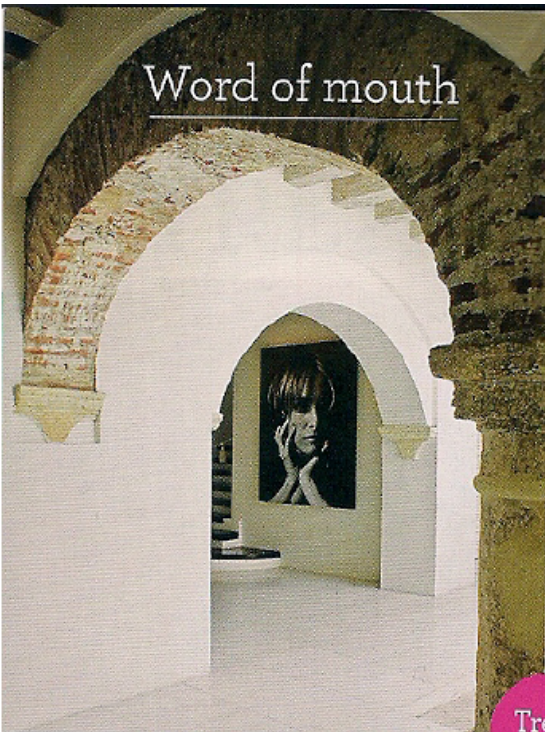
TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2010 £3.95

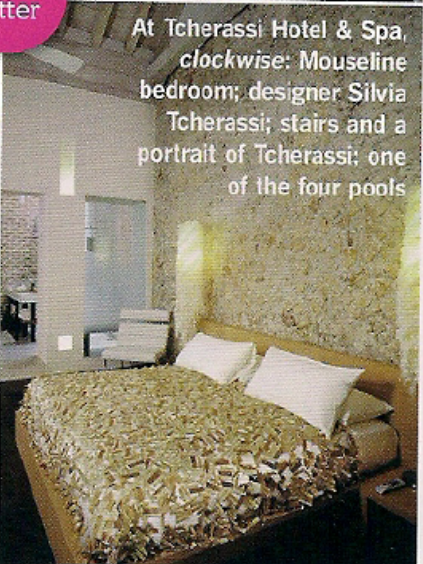
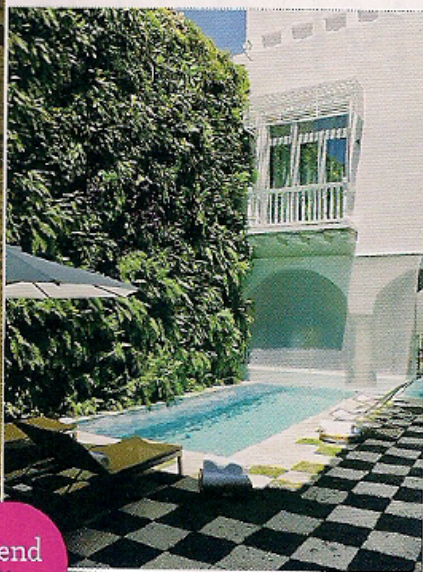
THE GOLD LIST 2010

Our ultimate guide to the
World's best hotels

Word of mouth



Trend
setter



At Tcherassi Hotel & Spa,
clockwise: Mouseline
bedroom; designer Silvia
Tcherassi; stairs and a
portrait of Tcherassi; one
of the four pools

Fashion house

COLOMBIA A retreat in colonial Cartagena is a first for Colombia's favourite designer

Long the weekend playground of wealthy Bogotáians, Cartagena has recently caught the imagination of the outside world to become one of the hottest cities in South America. The new **Tcherassi Hotel & Spa** will only enhance that image, with its captivating mix of period romance, contemporary style and modern technology. Housed in a beautifully restored 18th-century colonial mansion in the old town, the hotel was designed by Colombia's most successful fashion designer, Silvia Tcherassi, who was born just outside Cartagena and has always felt an affinity with the city. 'It's so vibrant and colourful, you can almost smell the emotion and happiness,' she says. Reinforcing this sense of place was vital to the designer, who oversaw every aspect of the hotel, from the in-room scent to the staff uniforms (inspired by the traditional Colombian folk dance 'Cumbia'), and the vertical internal garden sprouting with thousands of native plants: 'I love the exuberance of nature,' says Tcherassi. The hotel also has a spa featuring indigenous treatments and products by Spain's Germaine de Capuccini, a chic Italian restaurant, Castaño, and four swimming pools (one on the roof terrace for guests only). Check it out during the fifth annual literary **Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias** (28-31 January), and keep an eye out for future Tcherassi openings.

FRANCESCA SYZ

00 57 5 664 4445; www.tcherassihotels.com. Doubles from US\$295. See also www.hayfestival.com/cartagena/