

Weekend Escape To Cartagena

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A glam poolside table at Vera at the Tcherassi Hotel

Four Seasons isn't the only big hotel chain on the way. Six Senses, InterContinental, Hyatt and other luxury brands have projects in the works, albeit mostly outside the old-city walls. But for now, one of Cartagena's primary charms is that its best (and virtually only) places to stay are the tiny, independent, mostly Colombian-owned boutique hotels in onetime mansions in UNESCO-land. (The exception, the [Sofitel Legend Santa Clara](#), is a good choice for families or others who really want *all* the comforts of home, plus a toucan living in its garden courtyard.) They range from the fashion-focused [Tcherassi Hotel](#), owned by one of Colombia's favorite clothing designers, where my bedspread was covered with dress labels and the scene at the Vera restaurant is still lively some five years on, to the romantic new [Casa San Agustin](#), which has a graciously traditional vibe, and [Casablanca](#), where whitewashed walls and bleached woods give it the *blanca* and the scale of everything, from the roof deck to the rooms to their outdoor showers, is grand.