



In Transit

Highlights from *In Transit*, a blog on travel news, deals and tips, written by the editors and reporters of the Travel section, at nytimes.com/intransit.



Boutique Hotels To Open in Colombia

Colombia's luxury quotient continues to bubble with the openings of two boutique hotels.

The fashion designer Silvia Tcherassi will open the Tcherassi Hotel + Spa (www.tcherassihotels.com) in Cartagena this fall. Housed in a 250-year-old mansion that was meticulously renovated by Ms. Tcherassi, the hotel will embrace a colonial-era style (high ceilings and private balconies) and offer modern amenities (custom toiletries and robes created by Ms. Tcherassi). The hotel has seven rooms and suites with open bathrooms, four pools, a full-service spa, private lounge with an outdoor bar and an Italian restaurant. Rates will start at \$275.

Next summer, Desires Hotels (www.desireshotels.com) is set to open the Charlee in Medellín, a once violence-ridden city that now brims with new parks, cafes and art museums. The hotel, situated in the city's fashionable Lleras Park district, will have 44 rooms, a rooftop pool with V.I.P. lounge, a 2,150-square-foot health club and spa, and a restaurant. Room amenities will include iPod docking stations and 42-inch plasma televisions. Nightly rates are expected to be around \$200.

HILARY HOWARD