

Condé Nast Traveler

MAY 2011 WORD OF MOUTH

CULTURE SWAP

Mexican Wave

Get ready for a caliente summer in **New York City**: The Mexicans are coming, and they're bringing the best of south-of-the-border hospitality, fiestas, food, and ice pops with them



THE HOTELIER

WHO Carlos Couturier. **WHAT** The man behind the new **HôtelAmericano**, wedged between art galleries and the latest section of the High Line in N.Y.C.'s Chelsea hood. A boxy metallic-mesh construction anchored by concrete and stainless steel, the ten-story hotel is designed to feel "minimalist, modernist, and manly, like a 1960s gentlemen's club," says

Couturier. It's easy to imagine Don Draper (or the dapper Couturier) lounging on one of the yellow-leather recliners, waking up in a wooden platform bed, or sipping a *caipirinha* at the rooftop bar (212-216-0000; doubles, \$325-\$750). **WHAT'S NEXT** A downtown Mexico City hotel in an eighteenth-century colonial palace featuring palatial rooms and budget quarters.