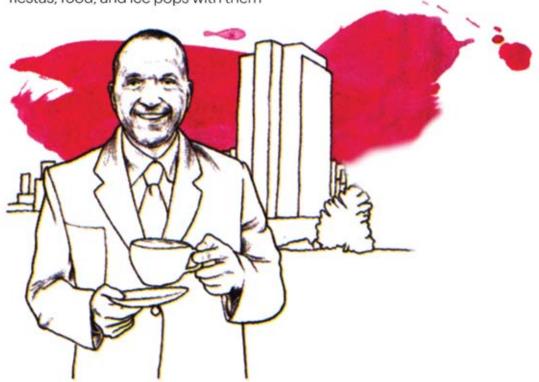
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**MAY 2011 WORD OF MOUTH** 

**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 Hôtel
Americano, 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.