

ALGODON MANSION.

BUENOS AIRES, algodonmansion.com

If Argentina's president, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, can steer her country clear of another financial disaster (the economy collapsed in 2001), its sultry capital should very soon emerge as a major stylista destination. And if Buenos Aires lacks the requisite private hotel that every fashionable capital should flaunt, the Algodon Mansion, opening in December in the city's chic Recoleta district, fits the bill in a grand manner. From the team behind the Algodon wine estates, the Mansion's gorgeous Belle Époque architecture will contain just 10 immense and elegant contemporary suites (with B&B and Cappellini furniture, Italian marble, hand-carved stone and original artworks) as well as a wine cellar, a library bar, spa and haute French-Argentine restaurant, rooftop pool and lounge. Just in case you weren't completely convinced of the Algodon's stylistic preeminence, take note that all suites feature dazzling views of a private and distinctly Babylonian four-story waterfall and hanging garden. Don't cry for me, indeed.

INTERCONTINENTAL MONTELUCIA RESORT & SPA. PARADISE VALLEY, AZ. montelucia.com

With Palm Springs being so 2004, trend-voracious West Coast cultural elitists have of late been swallowing their pride and making for the heat of the steadfastly Republican stronghold of Arizona for weekend playtime. Set at the foot of Camelback Mountain, in the heart of Paradise Valley, the new InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa might just be one of the most extravagant resort projects of our generation. Taking aesthetic cues from Andalusia, with its ancient Moorish and Roman influences, the InterContinental Montelucia has rustically stylish rooms scattered among quasi-mini-villages, with five pools, a health club and the 31,000-square-foot Joya Spa within frolicking distance of your front door. Epicures, take note: There are six restaurant and bars on site, including

the signature eatery Prado (styled on a Michelangelo-designed villa in Fiesole), and the sexy North Africa-inspired nightclub Kasbah Pool Bar & Grille, with its 13 cabanas and what might just be the world's first international French fry menu.

SLS HOTEL AT BEVERLY HILLS, A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL. slshotels.com
MONDRIAN. WEST HOLLYWOOD, mondrianhotel.com

While every other hotel group has been scrambling to launch twee eco sub-brands, Starwood Hotels and

Resorts, in conjunction with L.A. nightlife hotshots SBE, has been plotting in the direction of megaluxe. And so, this winter, Beverly Hills will see the launch of the SLS Hotel—the first of a new lineup of ultra-chic lairs. With interiors by Philippe Starck, the SLS will be awash in boutique-y hotel trappings (sleek furnishings, designer minibars and a futuristic gym), but with 297 distinctly posh sleeping quarters, it will more likely be luring guests away from the Peninsula than from hipster magnets like the Standard. The SLS is arguably more about contemporary elegance than theatricality, but still features plenty of over-the-top places to see and be seen. D.C.'s superstar Spanish chef José Andrés will oversee the hotel's decadent culinary piazza, which will offer a patisserie and a sexy tapas bar; there will also be an on-site Moss design shop. And in a neat little

twist, the original Starck interiors of new-generation L.A. hotel the Mondrian have just been given a post-millennium makeover by Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz. Unlike the recent stylistic massacre that went down at the Royalton, Ortiz instead imbues Starck's minimal palette with a few doses of playful color: blues and purples in the lobby, orange in the bar and striking red accents in the sleeping quarters. Rooms also get sustainable bamboo floors and grandiose framed mirrors. The Penthouse Suite goes for baroque, with a palette of antique gold and bronze and flamboyant crystal chandeliers. And as for the Skybar, well... you probably still can't get in.

