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THE HOT LIST 2006

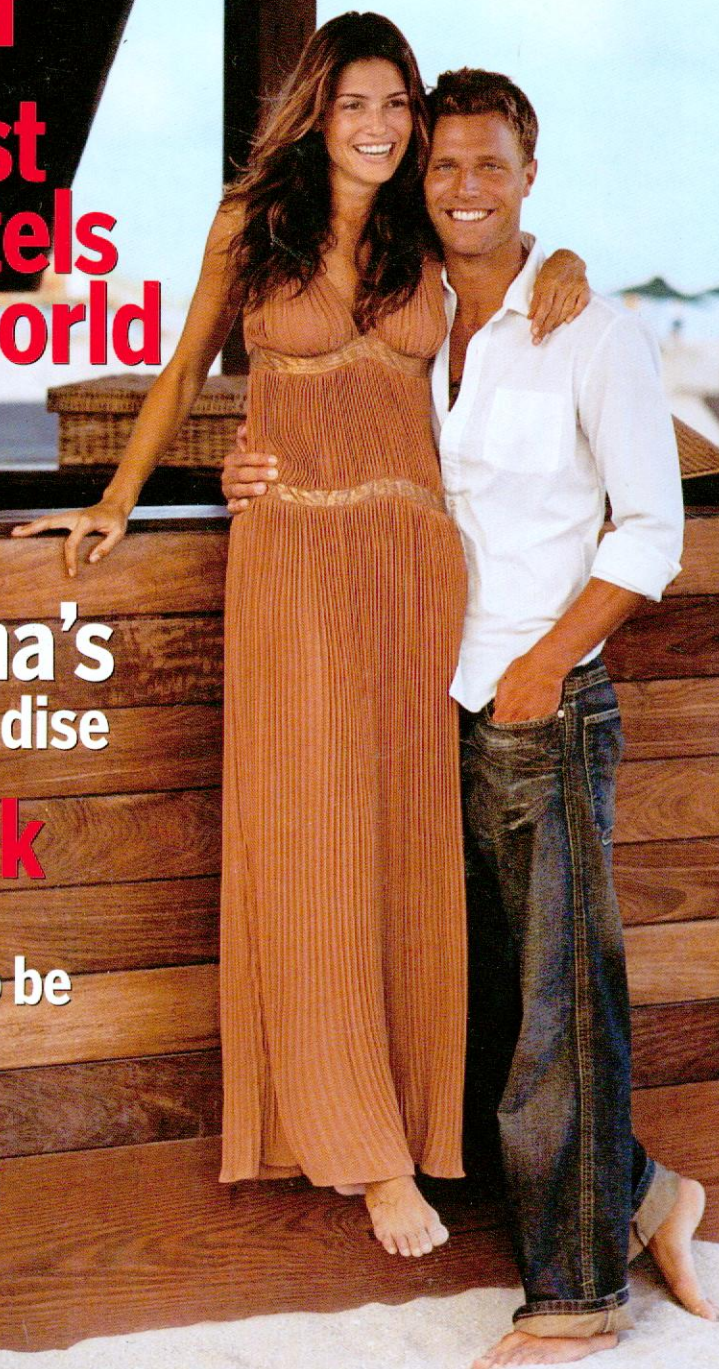
**60** best  
new hotels  
in the world

**Argentina's**  
natural paradise

**New York**  
Why Harlem  
is the place to be

**ISLAND  
HOPPING**  
in the Adriatic

**Istanbul** An insider's guide to the historic city with a new, fashionable face

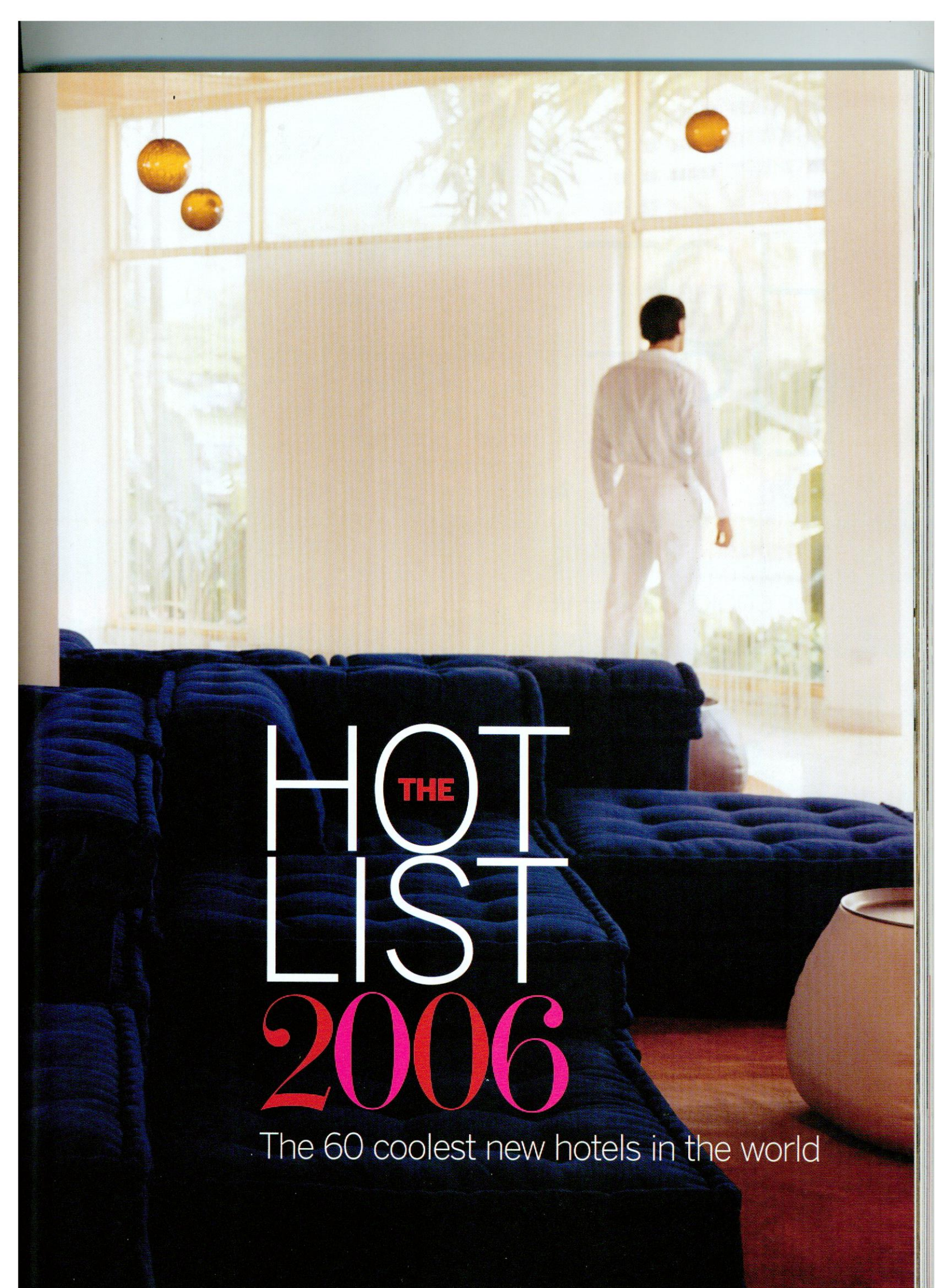






The lobby of The Standard Hotel Miami, André Balazs's sleek addition to the city's hotel scene





# HOT THE LIST 2006

The 60 coolest new hotels in the world



# HOT THE LIST 2006

It takes more than pool cabanas and Wi-Fi to impress us: to feature in The Hot List a hotel has to care for its guests as well as its looks. It's for both qualities that we applaud André Balazs's new spa hotel in Miami, and welcome back an old (but newly renovated) friend, Brown's Hotel in London. The 60 hotels recommended here were chosen after months spent evaluating hundreds of contenders, a worldwide process which separated the must-haves from the also-rans.

Our choice of the very best new hotels in the world

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## HOME HOTEL Buenos Aires

UNDER  
£150

Aimed at the hip, partying crowd increasingly drawn to Buenos Aires's darker pleasures, Home became the first hotel in fashionable Palermo Hollywood when it opened in December 2005. Brainchild of London music producer Tom Rixton and his Argentine wife Patricia O'Shea, the property is within walking distance of fashion stores, film studios, and a plethora of modish bars and restaurants that never seem to close. Guests can fire up the fiesta at Home, where maestro barman Norman Barone (signature drink: rosemary-and-sorrel vodka Martini) mixes cocktails that kick, a modest kitchen produces tasty tapas, and room service is around-the-clock. The building's brushed concrete exterior is bathed in hallucinogenic shades of apple-green and lemon; its interior is modern Spartan, warmed by touches of 1960s retro. Two aptly named *palo borracho* ('drunk branch') trees stand guard over a jasmine-draped deck, *parilla* barbecue and lush gardens with a glittering pool. The 14 bedrooms, enlivened with strips of vintage French wallpaper, are equipped with Eliel Saarinen-designed queen-sized beds (the three suites have king-sized beds, along with sofa, Jacuzzi and balcony). Each room has a stereo/MP3 player, cable TV and Wi-Fi; guests can borrow CDs from a library, and common areas are divided into 'tune zones', with beats mixed by Rixton and local DJs. The spa offers Ayurvedic, shiatsu and Esalen treatments to alleviate jet lag, stress or the inevitable hangover.

**WHEN TO GO** Buenos Aires's buzz never stops.

**ROOM TO BOOK** The Garden Suite has ample private space, a Jacuzzi with a sky view, and a rooftop terrace overlooking the pool and garden. **Honduras 5860, Buenos Aires, Argentina** (00 54 11 4778 1008; [www.homebuenosaires.com](http://www.homebuenosaires.com)). Doubles from US\$139; suites US\$236; garden suite US\$351



## LE SERENO St Barts

Despite its pretty location on a cove in the north-east of St Barts, the old Sereno Beach Hotel wouldn't have won any beauty competitions. Now everyone is talking about how the French designer Christian Liaigre (Club Med Bora Bora, The Mercer in New York) has transformed the 30-year-old ugly duckling into the most fashionable and luxurious new hotel on one of the most fashionable and luxurious islands in the Caribbean. Liaigre's radical makeover took three years but, with the help of lighting designer Arnold Chan and landscaper Fernando Tabora, it has been worth the wait. With just 37 suites and cottages, the scale is intimate and the look is quietly handsome, with chunky teak furniture, dark-wood louvres and white walls. All rooms have five-star essentials such as plasma-screen TVs, iPods, Wi-Fi and Ex Voto Paris bath products, but their real appeal is the way they have been designed to merge with the outdoors. Since the hotel opened, in time for Christmas, the Restaurant des Pêcheurs (grills, seafood) has been growing in popularity, as has Le Sereno Bar and Lounge. There are plans to add a spa this year.

**WHEN TO GO** St Barts can get crowded and expensive over Christmas and New Year; August can be sublimely quiet, and about half the price.

**ROOM TO BOOK** Villa Vue Mer is the largest cottage and has the best views.

**Grand Cul-de-Sac, St Barts** (00 590 590 298300; [www.lesereno.com](http://www.lesereno.com)). Suites from €450; villas from €1,100

**Top**, Le Sereno's contemporary take on the four-poster bed. **Left**, a suite at Home Hotel, Buenos Aires. **Opposite**, the Art Deco exterior of the Sunset Tower Hotel

