

Five Best...Latin Quarters

1 Cartagena

In the heart of the walled Colombian city, one of the most beautiful in South America, lies **La Passion**, a stunning new hotel with a rooftop pool that has blended the elegance of the original 19th-century Spanish mansion with stylish, modern detailing. Doubles from €180 per night B&B; 0057 5 664 8605, lapassionhotel.com.

2 Rio de Janeiro

Ipanema is where you want to be in Rio – it's got the best shops, hippest bars and restaurants and most happening beach. The only problem is finding decent affordable accommodation, so the modern, minimalist **Queen Silva Loft**, which opened this year and is walking distance from the beach, has proved an instant hit. With the annex guest suite, it can sleep 4-6. €80-€150 per night; 0055 21 8175 6268 (mobile), ipanemaholidayapartment.com.

3 Mexico City

Opened in March, the **Hippodrome Hotel** has 16 beautifully appointed rooms in a renovated 1931 art deco building in the leafy, bar-lined Condesa district. Don't be put off the hotel's bistro by the name – the "Hip Kitchen" (cringe) has a vibrant atmosphere and serves inventive Mexican fusion fare. From £85 per room through Exsus Travel (020-7292 5060, exsus.com).

4 Atacama desert

The **Awasi Hotel** in the oasis of San Pedro de Atacama is pricey, but more affordable than Explora, the Chilean

