

CITY

THE DESTINATION FOR STYLE



fashion forward 2006

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS
SHOP: L.A., CHICAGO, S.F., LONDON
SUPER HEROES OUT OF THE CLOSET
THE HIDDEN HAMPTONS
DO-IT-YOURSELF COUTURE
DUNCAN QUINN SUITS UP

THE SEARCH FOR
THE PERFECT 'T'

NEW KIDS ON THE
FASHION BLOCK

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OF STYLES TO
FALL FOR



DESTINATION 01: MEXICO CITY

With the recent presidential election, new elevated highways above the Periférico, a boom in real estate development, and an upswing in the economy, *EI D.F.* (*Distrito Federal*) has never been as hospitable or easy to navigate. It's a land of extremes—the very rich and the very poor, volcanoes and lakes, upscale and rugged—but Mexico's capital is nothing if not a party town, and once venues open, they stay that way past sunrise. The mega-clubs typically charge an entry fee and have an open bar inside, but cover is often waived for ladies: the one perk of *machismo*. **By Liza Monroy**



STAY HERE:

Across from Chapultepec Park and minutes from the swanky Masaryk shopping drag in upscale Polanco, the Ricardo Legorreta–designed **CAMINO REAL** (www.caminoreal.com, Mariano Escobedo 700) showcases a Rufino Tamayo mural, among hundreds of other in-room objets d'art. Quirky boutique **LA CASONA** (hotellacasona.com.mx, Durango 280) brings a hint of Parisian charm to the newly hip Colonia Roma neighborhood. Each of the 29 rooms in the early-century mansion plays off *época porfiriana* style.



EAT & DRINK HERE:

Renowned chef Marta Ortiz Chapa brings her signature modern twist to classical Mexican fare at **AGUILA Y SOL** (Av. Moliere 42). (Try anything with mole.) Dance off dinner at fun and funky **PERVERT LOUNGE** (República de Uruguay 70), where DJs spin house and trip-hop amid Korova Milk Bar–reminiscent décor. At Coyoacan tequila institution **EL HIJO DEL CUERVO** (Jardín Centenarios 17), remember the rule, “sip, don't shoot.”

LOGISTICS:

CURRENCY: 1 USD = 11.02 Mexico pesos
AIRPORT: Benito Juárez Int'l Airport (MEX)
POPULATION: About 8.6 million
WHEN TO GO: September to May

INSIDER TIPS:

- End a long night out at **PLAZA GARIBALDI**, where drunk mariachis convene to play till the sun comes up.
- Do not leave *la ciudad* without sampling **TACOS AL PASTOR**, spit-roasted pork on corn tortillas that come with an array of typical sauces—and don't forfeit the piña on top.



Like a milepost signifying the posh part of town, **CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE** (atop Chapultepec Hill) marks the route up Reforma towards Polanco and Lomas de Chapultepec. That's appropriate, since aristocrats have lived here dating back to Nezahualcoyotl, the King of Texcoco, in the 1400s. These days it houses the **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY** and commands the best view in the city from its multiple terraces. Descend to the 1,655-acre **CHAPULTEPEC PARK** and take a rowboat out on the huge lake, brave the old-style wooden rollercoaster at the on-site amusement park, and stroll through the woods to the hidden gardens.



LEARN HERE

The best place to see the work of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera is the **MUSEO DOLORES OLMEDO** (museodoloresolmedo.org, Av. México 5843 Col. La Noria, Xochimilco). Olmedo, a close friend and patron of the couple, accrued a private collection that notably features Kahlo's arresting 1945 “Self-Portrait With Small Monkey.” Rivera wasn't the only significant muralist in the Mexican school; the **SALA DE ARTE PUBLICO DAVID ALFARO SIQUEIROS** (siqueiros.inba.gob.mx, 29 Tres Picos St.) is devoted to his contemporary, who pioneered acrylic painting while in prison. Learn about an Aztec sport where losers got beheaded at **MUSEO NACIONAL DE ANTROPOLOGIA** (mna.inah.gob.mx, Av. Reforma at Calzada Gandhi) or experience traditional **BALLET FOLKLORICO** (www.balletamalia.com.mx): It's disguised as a tourist attraction, but locals appreciate it just as much.

* MUST DO