TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

VOLUME V 2018

CRUISE

36.99 07>

edition

CARTAGENA

CASA SAN AGUSTÍN IS EXACTLY WHERE YOU WANT TO BE

You really couldn't choose a better location in this port city: The restored 17th-century hotel is just a few blocks from the waterfront in the dead center of old town—a prime jumping-off point for wandering the forts and palmstudded shores. The property itself is a piece of history: Its exposed wood beams, frescoes, and aqueduct wall are all original. Guests tend to get an early start for breakfast, filling the dining terrace as soon as the kitchen opens, at 7:30 а.м. But the morning scene doesn't truly pick up until around 9, when the Cartagenians roll in. For the next few hours, the tiled terrace and dining room buzz with businesspeople and ladies who breakfast lingering over butifarra (minced-pork sausage), carimañolas (casava fritters), and corn arepas that've been lightly fried, finished with egg, then fried again. They're best slathered in sour cream and topped with the not-too-spicy hogao sauce, a traditional Colombian sofrito of tomato and garlic. ERIN FLORIO



photograph by PAOLA & MURRAY

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