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Why Your Next Trip Should Be To Panama

 **Caroline Patek**, Contributor

There's much more to do than lounge poolside in Panama. Worldwide.
The once dilapidated but charmingly historic neighborhood of **Casco Viejo** has undergone a sophisticated makeover in recent years. While you can still spot the colonial-era architecture prevalent throughout its streets, the area now houses some of the city's best restaurants, bars, galleries and hotels. **DiVino Enoteca** is a swanky wine bar, with hundreds of varieties to choose from (watch for the classic, black-and-white movies playing silently in the background). At tapas restaurant **Manolo Caracol**, there is no menu—once seated, you'll be given a variety of small plates with Spanish influences, such as Andalusian gazpacho with cucumber sorbet and spicy tuna sashimi.

Extract: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestravelguide/2012/01/26/why-your-next-trip-should-be-to-panama/>