

# L'Ami

STAY CONNECTED  
TO YOUR CULTURE

**LOVE  
YOUR  
CURLS!**

FROM WAVY  
TO WILD,  
OUR GUIDE  
HAS YOU  
COVERED

**MAKE OVER  
YOUR  
MAN  
(YOU KNOW  
YOU WANT TO!)**

**CHRISTINA  
AGUILERA**

SWEARS TO TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH...

8

**SEXY  
TRENDS**

YOU'LL  
ROCK ALL  
SEASON

**YUM!**  
FISH TACOS  
& QUESO  
FONDUE  
RECIPES  
THAT BRING  
ON THE  
SPRING

**YOU'LL NEVER  
GUESS WHICH  
U.S. CITIES ARE  
GRATEFUL FOR  
IMMIGRANTS**  
P. 112

**ALIYA S. KING****(WRITER, "SAY ANYTHING," PAGE 98)****38 YEARS OLD**This New Jersey-based writer's work has appeared in *Essence*, *Vibe*,*Upscale* and *Seventeen*. Her fifth novel, *Diamond Life*, is available now.

*"The interview was in Christina's house [in December], so it was intimate and special. I loved her outdoor Christmas decorations. The front lawn was dotted with mini Santas and all kinds of intricate holiday decorations."*

**MARTIN AMADO****(STYLIST, "FRESHEN UP!" PAGE 65)****39 YEARS OLD**

Our interior design expert lives in Miami, where he also contributes

to Univision's *Despierta América*. Watch out for his upcoming Spanish-language decorating DVD.

*"Spring is the perfect time to redecorate our homes because we can take inspiration from the seasonal changes happening in nature and fashion. After the winter months, everything feels renewed—it's nice to give spaces a fresh look."*

**EDWIN TSE****(PHOTOGRAPHER, "8 SPRING TRENDS," PAGE 104)****34 YEARS OLD**

This Brooklyn, New York-based photographer has

also done work for *People*, *Nico Magazine*, EMI Records and Capitol Records.

*"My favorite part of the shoot was at the end when it all came together. Even though we were a bit crunched for time, everyone got on it—that's when you really find out what you're made of professionally."*

# LATINA

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## Freshen Up!

SPRING IS THE PERFECT TIME TO MAKE SMALL CHANGES TO YOUR HOME THAT WILL HAVE A BIG IMPACT. *By Martin Amado*



WALLPAPER in "Wonderland," York Wallcoverings, \$70 per roll, yorkwall.com

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF YORK WALLCOVERINGS



LINEN WEAVE WALLPAPER in "Apricot," \$46 per roll; Café wall decals (in frames), York Wallcoverings, \$13 per pack, both [yorkwall.com](http://yorkwall.com)

## NO-COST MAKEOVER

Rearranging your existing furniture is a great way to refresh your home for spring. A new layout can make a big difference in how a room feels without spending any money. Try bringing in a wicker chest from your bedroom to serve as a coffee table in the living room. Use ceramic garden stools as end tables; or maybe repurpose your console table in the dining room as a new sideboard. This is a great opportunity to unleash your inner do-it-yourself artist by refurbishing or painting old furniture in a bold color and creating a new conversation piece in your home. A bright coat of paint on a traditional fixture can give it an immediate update reflecting a retro or modern style.



CERAMIC STOOL, Target, \$190, [target.com](http://target.com)



Treat yourself and your home to a beautiful bouquet of *fresh flowers*. Whether it's from your own garden or the marketplace, they are the perfect reminder that *spring has arrived*.

## DESIGNER WALLS

It's obvious that a paint job will do wonders to renew the look of a space, but have you considered wallpaper? Wallpaper has made a comeback and it's a great way to make a dramatic statement in a room—especially as an accent wall. Choose a graphic print for a modern style or a damask design for a more classic look. Whether wallpaper is metallic colored or features a sophisticated pattern, you can mix it in with your current decor to give any room extra punch.

A BIG TREND is to use wallpaper in unconventional ways such as framed art on the wall instead of covering the entire surface. I love this idea as a beautiful backdrop behind a sofa or bed as it creates the look of paneling when you add trim molding around the wallpaper. You can also use wallpaper to enhance the back of an open bookcase, armoire or closet. Another option is to use decals on any painted wall, mirror or piece of furniture for a custom-designed look for less.

## POPS OF COLOR

Color can help enliven your outlook this spring. Muted tones of tangerine, lime, yellow, teal and lilac combined with neutral grays and taupes are the trend in fashion and home decor. You can easily incorporate these colors as accents with candles, decorative accessories or throw pillows. Change heavy drapery to sheer or linen panels, and if your sofa is swathed in dark fabric, a slipcover is an inexpensive solution that will lighten up the room. Add a graphic floral pillow and you have a brand new couch!

FLOWER PILLOW, Crate & Barrel, \$60, [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com)

**Martin Amado** is a Cuban television designer, lifestyle expert and contributing writer on the subject of home decor.