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Romanian Rapture

Glamour and elegance
at the Romanian embassy.

BY DONNA DREW SAWYER

Surrounded by the mystery and intrigue of Carpathian lore, Ambassador Sorin Ducaru, 41, and his wife Carmen, 31, came to Washington, D.C., in 2001 as part of the new generation of couples in Washington's diplomatic corps. Like the vibrant buds on D.C.'s cherry blossoms during the first days of spring, the newlyweds add exuberance to the diplomatic community and an enlightened aesthetic to their residence.

The new decor in the embassy residence needed to reflect Carmen's vitality as a young mother and fresh face in the city as well as the diverse palette of contemporary Romania. She admits that a lack of privacy is an inherent part of their lives. "Sometimes I can go to the kitchen in my slippers—but never in my pajamas." But she is quick to add that it is a very small price to pay for the honor and privileges she, Sorin and daughter Maria enjoy: they get to share their love for Romania with the United States.

No stranger to the exotic, the stylish and articulate Carmen Ducaru exudes the cosmopolitan charm that infused her spirit in her former residence, the Paris of the East—Bucharest. The couple embodies a certain balance between their youthful sophistication and their old-world roots. Sorin's Romanian origin is the rural city of Brasov, a provincial town surrounded by the Carpathian Mountains in central Romania. ■

PHOTO ASSISTANT: JANE HUBBARD; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MICHAEL BERNAL FOR T.J.E. ARTIST; AGENT: OSCAR DE LA MENTA; HAIR: SUE BIZZO; AND JEWELRY: THOMAS COHEN, \$4,000. AND MARCO BLANIK, JEWELRY: MARCO, BORN SOUTH AVAILABLE AT NIMMAN MARCO; JOSE BARBERA MAKE UP; LUIS AND CRYSTAL FERRAZ; \$300; SAMS JEWELRY.