South America is a continent of vibrant culture blessed with an abundance of dynamic natural vistas and archeological sites, all of which provide filmmakers with a desired slice of cinematic heaven. *P3 Update* takes a closer look at the production perks currently offered by Colombia, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Peru in 2012.

COLOMBIA

From the azure seas of the Caribbean coastline to the blinding beauty of the Andes Mountains, Colombia has it all. Its scenic diversity, breathtaking landscapes and dynamic ethnic variety are just some of the country's alluring qualities; there's also an endless list of sublime vistas that include sprawling deserts, moonscape peaks, dense jungles, waterfalls and volcanoes. This production paradise

is interspersed with an array of historical and cultural treasures, not to mention the dynamic metropolitan buzz of Bogota, Cali and Medellin. Filled to the brim with incredibly beautiful, hardworking and talented people, this world-class destination is just waiting to get rediscovered. Hosting big-budget features like *The Motorcycle Diaries*, *Love in the Time of Cholera* and *The Next Three Days,*
as well as the upcoming boxing film
Hands of Stone

(starring Robert De Niro and Gael Garcia Bernal), Colombia is indeed a bright star in a Latin American constellation.

Colombia has strong drawing power with its low production costs in food and lodging, transport, specialized local talent, extras, equipment rental and studio hires. And most of the country's scenery has yet to be used in large and medium-scale international audiovisual productions. Colombia lacks a tax incentive for international productions, but legislation is currently before Congress to offer a cash rebate of 40 percent of film production expenses hired or paid to companies established in Colombia or to Colombian citizens. There's an additional 20 percent for transport (including plane tickets bought in Colombia), catering and lodging costs paid to Colombian companies. "We hope to have the rebate in place by 2013," states Silvia Echeverri of the **Colombian Film Commission**. Recent film productions shot in Colombia include *The Hidden Face*
,
Pablo Escobar
,
Skinny Dip
,
Broken Kingdom
,
The Squad
and the ballet documentary
First Position
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CHILE

Chile offers a huge variety of landscapes ranging from the driest deserts in the world to millennia-old glaciers. With its cultural diversity and steady economic growth, the country is both stable and metropolitan, especially the capital city of Santiago. Another major drawing card for shooting in Chile is the low-cost talent buyouts of all ethnicities, not to mention the expertise of its film crews. You'll also find more European and North American settings here than in any

other South American country. This year is looking healthy for Chile as a Hollywood project by Phoenix Pictures is in the works, inspired by the 33 miners trapped in a Chilean mine in 2010.

“Chile doesn’t have direct incentives for filmmakers,” states Raimundo Alemparte, location and information manager at the **Chilean Film Commission**, “but if you co-produce with a Chilean production company, they will usually not charge you the VAT or IVA of 19 percent, or the local partner can request the reimbursement afterwards.” Furthermore, Chilean private companies can donate up to 2 percent of their net profits to cultural projects and recover 50 percent of such donations through a tax credit, although the project must be previously approved by the Cultural Donations Committee and must be presented by a non-profit NGO. “This is only for co-productions and is not used that often in the film industry however,” says Alemparte. Recent productions shot in Chile include “Profugos” for HBO and Sundance winners
Violeta
and
Young and Wild
. Current projects include
Magic Magic
(starring Michael Sera and Juno Temple),
No
(starring Gael Garcia Bernal) and
Aftershock
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