

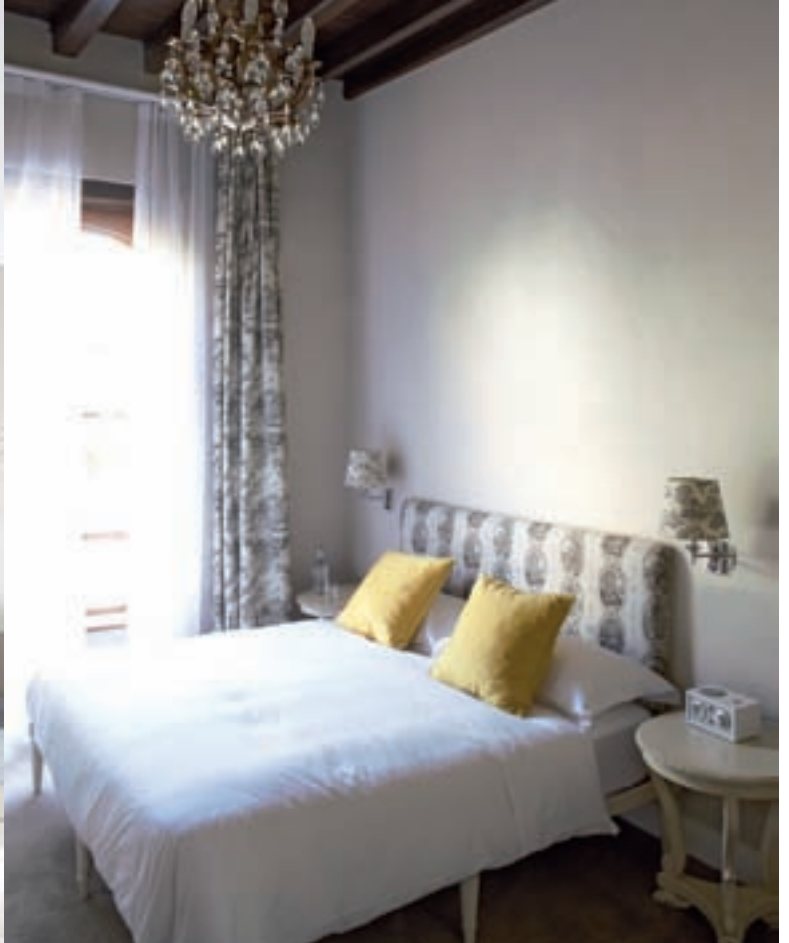
HL AT PLAY

needs, wants, must-haves

HOT SPOT

national treasure

A revamped hotel on Cape Town's Heritage Square showcases SA's varied cultures



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The bathroom of room 104 is large and glamorous; each of the 17 rooms in the hotel is decorated differently; much of the decor, including the reception rooms, is an eclectic mix of old and new; antique elements give a sense of the history of the building; the Asian-inspired suite is elegant and smart. **PREVIOUS PAGE** The beautiful curtains in room 104 were made by Mielie from wedding dress offcuts.



Located on Bree Street on Cape Town's Heritage Square, the Cape Heritage Hotel is one of the city's hidden gems. Husband-and-wife team Johan and Victoria Nel, directors of the company that took over the lease for Heritage Square, began a careful, loving restoration of the hotel in June 2007, preserving original details such as the high-beamed teak ceilings and yellowwood floors. Small wall details were left exposed, adding to the sense of history pervading the building, which dates back to the 1780s. 'The building is the asset and we wanted to bring out more of what it had to give,' says Victoria. 'The timelessness of the structure gives it an atmosphere of old and new combined,' she adds. This has been carried through into the 17 rooms, which have each been individually decorated with mix of contemporary and antique pieces. The themes range from Asian-inspired elegance, encapsulated in silk curtains, a bamboo ladder and a red-and-black colour scheme,

to a more contemporary, 'rough-luxe' room, which is predominantly neutral with bold shocks of royal purple in the heavy velvet curtains and a lacquered mirror frame. Victoria conceptualised the interiors with friend and interior architect Lisa Bond from Painted Porcupine, in conjunction with Garland Interior Decorators. 'Every room has something special,' says Victoria, most of them containing some locally produced craft. The stunning room 104, for example, features dramatic curtains made by Mielie from wedding-dress offcuts, while room 108 is characterised by felt pebbles designed by Ronel Jordaan. The hotel is also a showcase for many pieces by local artists and designers, such as Anton Brink, Heath Nash, Jackson Nkumanda and Margo Hattingh, resulting in a culturally rich and varied environment. 'What I love most about the hotel,' says Victoria, 'is how your curiosity is piqued when you walk in.' We wholeheartedly agree. ☐ **Cape Heritage Hotel, 90 Bree Street, Cape Town, 021-424-4646, capeheritage.co.za**