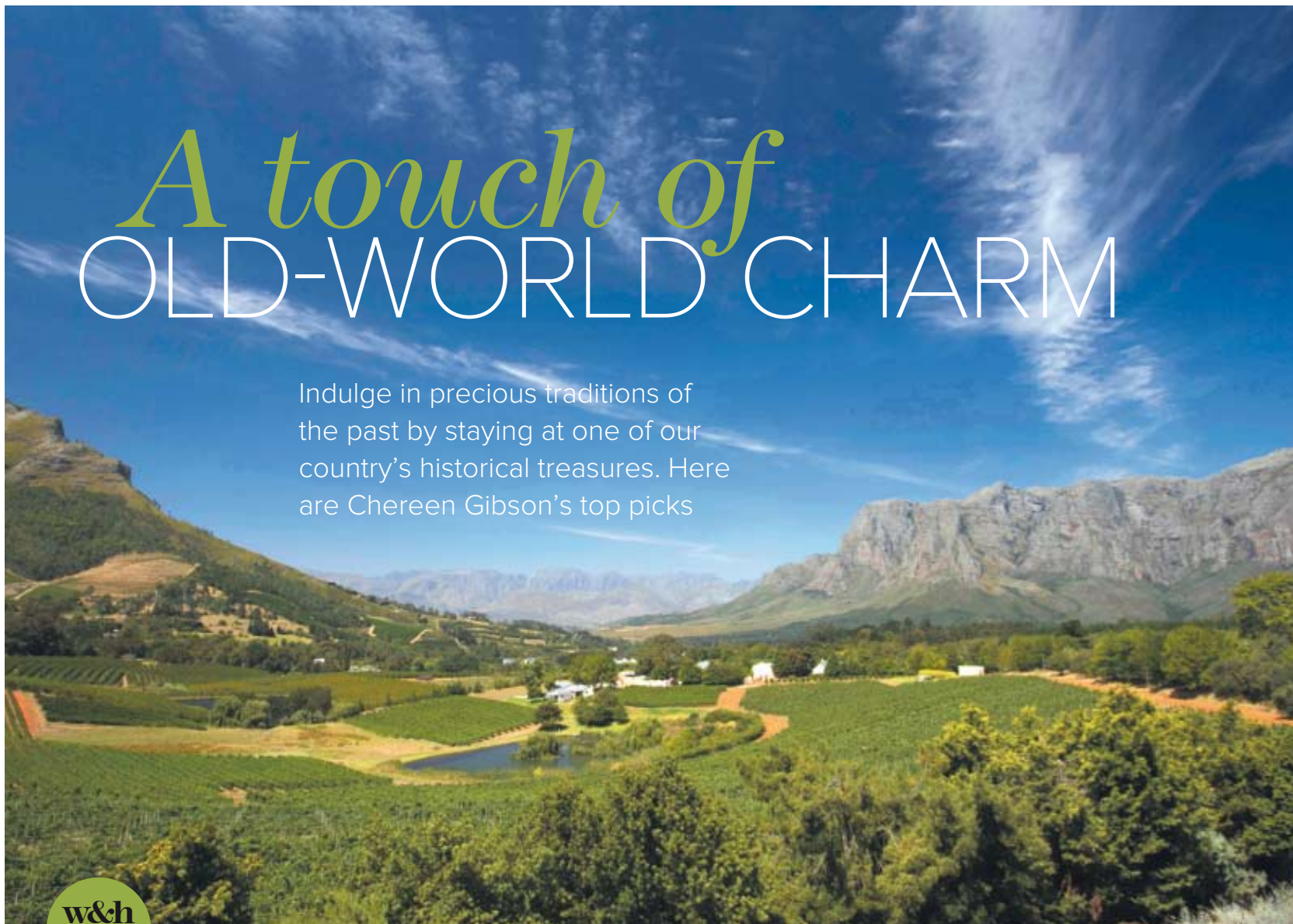


A touch of OLD-WORLD CHARM

Indulge in precious traditions of the past by staying at one of our country's historical treasures. Here are Chereen Gibson's top picks



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THE STELLENBOSCH HOTEL, STELLENBOSCH

Picturesque Stellenbosch should be on your list of must-see places, and the best way to discover everything this town offers is to stay in the historical centre.

OLD-WORLD CHARM: The hotel was built on a piece of land granted by Governor Simon van der Stel between 1692 and 1701, and was originally the home of the town's medical doctor/dentist/barber, Jan Cats. The Stellenbosch Hotel, or Swart House, was built after a fire destroyed the original house in the late 18th century. The building was restored to its former glory in 1987. Soon afterwards, it was declared a national monument.

MODERN-DAY COMFORT: After its restoration during the '80s, the hotel was transformed into a 27-room boutique hotel. With six fully equipped self-catering apartments on offer, the hotel also boasts

excellent conference and banqueting facilities for guests.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: The Stellenbosch Hotel is tucked away between oak trees, some dating back to the 19th century, and is surrounded by busy



and modern shops, restaurants and art galleries. Situated in Dorp Street, you're a stone's throw away from the longest row of historical buildings in the country and very close to the numerous well-preserved, thick-walled museums where you can step back in time.

WHAT IT COSTS: Rooms between R395 and R595 and self-catering apartments are R595 for a single and R695 for a double room. All rates are per person sharing and include a full continental and cooked breakfast.

FIND OUT MORE: 021 887 3644; www.stellenboschhotel.co.za

SPECIAL OFFER: w&h readers get 20% off rack rates, a free bottle of wine upon arrival and a 10% voucher at the restaurant. Valid from November 2009 to January 2010. Subject to availability. T&C apply.

MELVIN RESIDENCE, ARCADIA, PRETORIA

OLD-WORLD CHARM: The main residence was originally built in 1890 and has been lovingly restored over the past few years, while still maintaining its elegant Victorian style. One of the few houses from this period still in existence, Melvin Residence boasts high moulded ceilings, wooden floors and period windows.

MODERN-DAY COMFORT: There are four spacious double rooms to choose from, as well as two single rooms. All the rooms boast antique furnishings that will make you feel like you've gone back in time.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: Enjoy stunning views of the city of Pretoria while sitting and enjoying a relaxing drink



on the wraparound stoep.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R350 per person sharing per night.

FIND OUT MORE: 012 343 2916 or 083 454 7321; www.melvinresidence.co.za



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GREENWAYS HOTEL, UPPER CLAREMONT, CAPE TOWN

Named after Agatha Christie's home in Torquay, England, you'll find this stately homestead nestled among six acres of landscaped gardens and original woodlands in Upper Claremont.

OLD-WORLD CHARM: The original property formed part of the prestigious Hen and Chicken Estate and was bought by a prominent dentist in 1929. The house was designed by renowned architect, Norman Lubinsky, and in 2002, the owners converted the grand home into a five-star guesthouse.

MODERN-DAY COMFORT: Each of the 14 luxury rooms has a character of its own, with lovely views out onto the manicured lawns. The woodwork was restored to its natural state during the

home's recent restoration – the Burmese teak staircase is a fine example of this.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: The in-house restaurant, Ashton's, was named after the original owners. Here, you'll enjoy gourmet meals in a magnificent setting.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R1 495 per person per night.

FIND OUT MORE: 021 761 1792; www.greenways.co.za

SPECIAL OFFER: R1 425 per person per night for a luxury double room, including breakfast, dinner every night and more. Valid until 14 April 2010, with a minimum of two nights' stay. Subject to availability. Quote "w&h reader offer" when booking.

charming getaways

THE TAJ, CAPE TOWN

The new Taj Hotel forms part of one of the world's most luxurious brands of hotels and resorts. Taj Hotels, Resorts and Palaces are dotted all around the globe and housed in spectacular historical buildings, including a number of ancient palaces in India.

OLD-WORLD CHARM: This spectacular hotel, a first for South Africa, is spread across three heritage buildings, including the South African Reserve Bank and the Temple Chambers.

MODERN-DAY COMFORT: You'll stay in one of 155 luxury rooms, including the spectacular heritage rooms found in the historical buildings, furnished according to the period. You'll find modern rooms in the newly built tower wing, with private balconies that offer unsurpassed views of the mountain. The hotel retains the original marble pillars, vaulted ceilings and other architectural elements from the period, offering you the perfect combination of old and new.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: An Ayurvedic spa makes a stay at The Taj even more attractive. You can indulge in a range of signature treatments and holistic therapies in one of six organically designed treatment rooms. If you're a fan of a good curry, you'll love The Bombay Brasserie, but you can also treat yourself to fresh seafood at the Seafood, Champagne or Oyster Bar.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R4 700 per room per night.

FIND OUT MORE: 021 423 3000; www.tajhotels.com; sales.capetown@tajhotels.com

SPECIAL OFFER: Readers receive a complimentary massage at Jiva Spa. Quote "w&h" when booking. >>



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THE ALPHEN COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL, CONSTANTIA

You'll feel right at home when you set foot in this beautifully restored Cape Dutch homestead set in the heart of a former wine estate.

OLD-WORLD CHARM: Established in 1714, the historic country manor was bought by the Cloete family in 1850 and has remained in their ownership to this day. It was declared a national monument in 1973 and has retained 16 acres of its original land.

MODERN-DAY COMFORT: Comfort is high on the agenda, with 21 stately en-suite rooms on offer and magnificent living areas for you to enjoy. You'll find many treasures hidden throughout the house, like a 17th century kist that was used to transport Jacob Cloete's possessions when he sailed to SA with Van Riebeeck in the 1800s.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: Don't miss the exclusive portrait of the Cloete family, which was painted especially for The Alphen by local artist, Penny Siopis.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R1 700 for a double room per night.

FIND OUT MORE: 021 794 5011; www.alphen.co.za

SPECIAL OFFER: R900 per person sharing, including breakfast and dinner. T&C apply. Subject to availability. Valid for SA residents only.

QUARTERS ON AVONDALE, MORNINGSIDE, DURBAN

OLD-WORLD CHARM: Dating back to before World War II, this Edwardian manor house was restored in 2007 to reflect the original architecture and recapture the spirit of yesteryear. Jam Restaurant, which is also a restored Edwardian building, can be found behind the guesthouse and offers a decadent menu, including phyllo-wrapped prawns with smoked pepper and rocket jam. And the trio of mini crème brûlée, liquorice nougat ravioli and vanilla pod ice cream is out of this world!

MODERN-DAY COMFORT: The main building is a double-storey manor house and offers a choice of 10 en-suite bedrooms, while the newly built annex, set a few metres from the main building, houses a further seven en-suite bedrooms. All the bedrooms feature stunning period furniture and antique finds from France.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: Don't miss their extensive cocktail menu on offer at the trendy cocktail bar in Jam Restaurant. Sip a Long Island Iced Tea while sitting perched on the gorgeous fuchsia bar stools. Whether you're in the mood for a steak or curry, Durban's

"Dining District" is a stone's throw away so a restaurant to suit your taste can be found within walking distance.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R2 100 for a luxury double room, including breakfast.

FIND OUT MORE: 031 303 5246; www.quarters.co.za

SPECIAL OFFER: R1 680 for a luxury double room per night, or R1 120 for a single room. Valid during December 2009 and January 2010.

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THE HERTFORD, LANSERIA, GAUTENG

OLD-WORLD CHARM: You'll find this charming stone building tucked away among rose bushes on 23 hectares of country estate, only a short drive from both Johannesburg and Pretoria. Steeped in a rich history, The Hertford was recently declared a national monument

and offers its guests luxurious country living paired with fine dining. **MODERN-DAY COMFORT:** Twenty-one spacious, romantic bedrooms are match-your-mood individual, with two breathtaking honeymoon suites if you're in the mood to spoil yourself. You'll also find large bookcases bursting with novels and biographies dotted around the house – perfect for lazy summer afternoons.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: With everything you can possibly think of on offer – from hearty roasts, savoury crêpes and decadent homemade desserts – food is the highlight at The Hertford. Even if you're not staying at the hotel, be sure to visit for their renowned Sunday lunch in a tranquil, country setting.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R530 per person sharing per night, including breakfast.

FIND OUT MORE: 011 659 0290; reservations@hertford.co.za; www.hertford.co.za

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CAPE HERITAGE HOTEL, CAPE TOWN CBD

OLD-WORLD CHARM: The Cape Heritage Hotel forms part of the restored Heritage Square at Bree, Buitengracht, Shortmarket and Hout Streets in the heart of the Mother City. Built in the 1770s, the hotel boasts a central courtyard, like many of the houses of the day. Here, you'll find the oldest known fruit-bearing grapevine in South Africa, which still flourishes today.

MODERN-DAY COMFORT: The hotel has recently been renovated, but the owners have managed to maintain the building's original charm. They've combined old with new, without losing the hotel's distinct character – the walls are adorned with historical photographs of Bree Street and Cape Town, as well as contemporary pieces from local artists like Richard Scott and Ruth Graves.

THAT LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA: The hotel has added an eco-

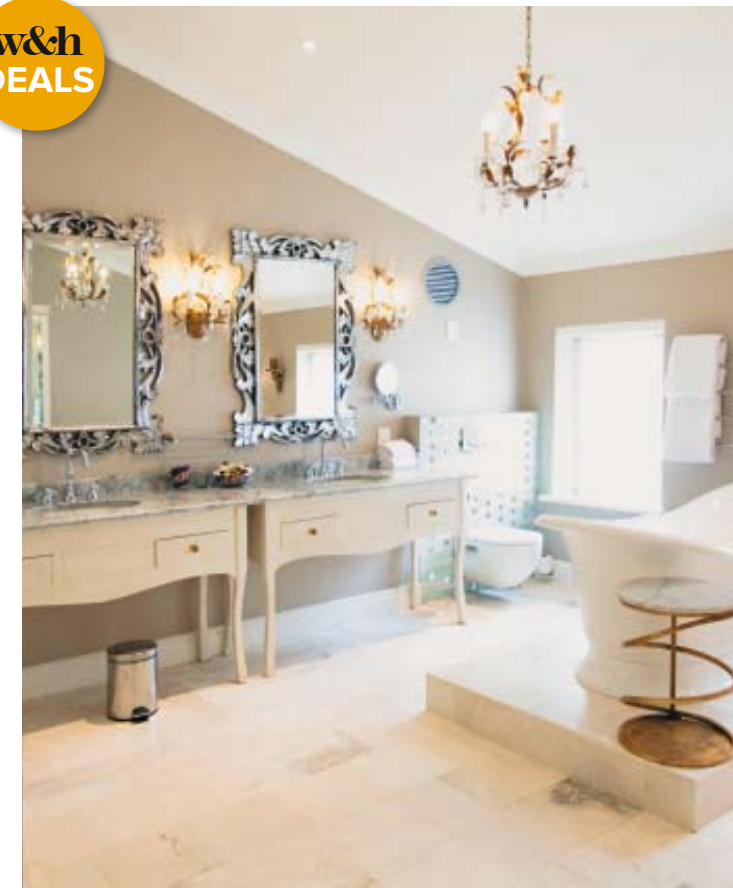
friendly touch by offering guests biodegradable toiletries and hot water heated using solar energy. They've also incorporated lighting designed by renowned designer Heath Nash, who uses only recyclable materials. The beautiful chandelier in the Summer Lounge is one such example. Heritage Square also boasts one of the best masseurs in Cape Town who'll happily treat you to a massage in the comfort of your own room.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R1 260 per person sharing per night, including breakfast.

FIND OUT MORE: 021 424 4646; www.capeheritage.co.za

SPECIAL OFFER: w&h readers receive a 25% discount on rates. Valid until 30 April 2010. Offer subject to availability. Please quote "w&h" when booking. T&C apply. w&h

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One&Only
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The perfect summer detox.

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