

Life's sweet at Pepper Club

Carly Ritz

IF YOU don't know it's there, you're likely to miss it. But thanks to The New Age, you won't.

Pepper Club's boutique hotel on the corner of Loop and Pepper Street in Cape Town is conveniently situated in the centre of town. Close enough to stumble back to after razzling on Loop Street.

I didn't get too much time off over the festive season but a visit to the Pepper Club hotel in Cape Town was enough of an energy boost to gear up for 2011.

Through the reception doors and the hustle and bustle of the city centre dissipates, to be replaced by the stillness of an inviting hotel lobby. I can hear jazz tunes coming from the cuisine-themed restaurant and hotel guests

having a good time at the bar. You'd be giggling too if you were tucking into oysters and champers on a sunny Cape Town day.

Up to my room I go and what a delight it is! The superior deluxe studio stands up to its name and comes equipped with a kitchenette, lounge, bedroom and en suite bathroom. The view from wall-length glass windows is spectacular and I'd be lying if I said the thought of packing up life in Jozi and relocating didn't cross my mind.

But The Cayenne spa was the highlight of the day - I'm a sucker for a spa treatment. I went for the Intonga Stick massage - translated as an hour of sheer indulgence.

Using environmentally safe products, this is a deep tissue-and-stress relieving treatment. The therapist uses her hands as well as different

sized wooden sticks to stretch tight muscles and ease toxic overload from daily stress. Afterwards you can relax by the pool surrounded by the panoramic view.

So, post treatment and suddenly I'm hungry! The Pepper Club breakfast buffet sorted that out fast. Cereals, pastries, cheese, fruits and an English breakfast is a combination guaranteed to have you roll out of the front door.

There is a gym for those who feel the need to burn off some of the breakfast calories but not for me. I'd much rather stroll up and down Loop Street popping in and out of the funky stores.

Later on you can watch a movie in the hotel's own intimate little cinema.

CNN Traveller magazine has named the Pepper Club as South Africa's best luxury hotel. Try it next time you go way down south.



VIEW TO THRILL: Could there be a better view anywhere than Pepper Club's pool?

Picture: EPIC COMMUNICATIONS