



PEOPLE & PLACES

THE FEEL OF LUXURY

Treat your home to a sensuous makeover with **Pandora de Balthazar's** gorgeous linens and antique lace.

BY FRANCOISE O'NEILL • PHOTOS BY BILL BOLIN



Growing up in Dalton, Georgia, one of the textile manufacturing capitol of the United States, Pandora de Balthazar learned to value fabrics. "My mother stitched beautiful clothes and taught me the art of sewing when I was quite young," she remembers. As a teenager, Pandora began collecting fabrics for the sheer pleasure they brought her.

As an adult she lived in Budapest, Hungary, for a while, where she experienced the European lifestyle and the riches that textiles add to the daily beauty of life. "Upon returning to the States, I missed being surrounded with finely woven tablecloths and bed linens," says Pandora. So she channeled her passion for fabrics into a career, by opening a shop called Antique European Linens in Pensacola Beach, Florida.

As word spread of Pandora's exquisite offerings, some dating to the early 18th century, famous decorators and Hollywood

set designers joined local shoppers. "All are one-of-a-kind works in linen, cotton or silk, and most are delicately embroidered and embellished," Pandora explains. "But the collection is not frilly; it includes a variety of styles and periods."

Pandora advocates putting old linens to daily use and believes that personal luxury is an absolute necessity. "In America, people tend to keep beautiful old linens in drawers. I am trying to change that by demonstrating that you can, indeed, live with antique and vintage textiles," she says. "No house is a home without textiles!"

Visit Antique European Linens at 9 South 9th Avenue, Pensacola, Florida 32502 or online at www.antiqueeuropeanlinens.com or www.pandoradebalthazar.com. For more information, call 850-432-4777.



OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: Pandora and Gracie get ready for guests. **OPPOSITE, RIGHT:** With her new lavender collection, Pandora brings her favorite garden scent indoors. **ABOVE:** A lace trimmed coverlet and shams top Pandora's hand-painted antique bed. **LEFT:** Fluffy goose down pillows are dressed in circa 1900 antique shams. **RIGHT:** Pandora uses vintage linens for everyday meals.