

CAPE TOWN IN JULY

On Thursday 28 July, the day after Krugersdorp and other parts of Joburg got snow, we left the icy weather for a wet Cape Town.

We arrived at 4pm and went straight to a pub in Newlands, The Forrester's Arms, better known as 'Forries', especially since it's close to Cape University. We met up with 2 of Hein's colleagues and had a pizza and a few beers. We sat very close to a heater and it got quite stuffy later-on. It was actually a relief to breathe in fresh air (although chilly) when we said goodbye.

The keys to the flat collected, we only arrived there after 8. Although the same owner, this flat is in a different block and on the 4th floor. But still with the mountain and seaview.

Friday morning Hein dropped me off at Tygervalley to do some much-needed grocery shopping. We took the Vissershok Road and the colours dazzled me – emerald green grass, powder to ink blue mountains, pale blue sky... Quite breathtaking!

At the flat I settled in and read some books. It was very cold – I was sitting in bed with a scarf, gloves AND occasionally switched on the heater! On Friday night we went to the Mexican Kitchen with Kobus and Linda. Had a lovely time, fabulous food and then we asked for the bill ... and wanted to pay with a credit card ... and was told that we have to pay cash! Well, we were not impressed! The Manager had some sorry story about selling and blah blah! We walked out, the guys went to draw money and the delightful chilli con carne was no more.

Saturday morning we met up with Kevin and Kobus at Oyo, the V&A Hotel's restaurant. Absolutely lovely weather! We sat right next to the water, so I was quite thankful for my long coat and scarf. Had a delightful breakfast (had liver – done to perfection.)



Oyo



Simonsvlei

By the time we drove back to the flat, the weather changed. We dressed up in warm jerseys and left to Simonsvlei, just outside Paarl. At the winery, they had a craft market and my mom was selling her homemade jams. Don't know why I've not taken pictures, but her labels are "Carmanet". Which my dad created from Carla (youngest sis), myself and Sanet (middle sis). Thought that was quite clever. Needless to say, we arrived there in pouring rain!

Luckily my umbrella fitted into my handbag (that's precisely why I always need to have a biggish bag). There were not that many people, but some very creatively decorated hats, beautiful jewellery and candles and some local artwork.

We drove to Fairview for some lunch, but because of the weather, everyone was inside and space was limited. We drove through Paarl, myself reliving my past (spent my high school years there) and went to my parents' home to prepare the braai for the snoek. When we left at 7pm, it wasn't raining anymore and we stopped at the McDonalds for an ice cream.

And that was the only time it rained during our visit!!!!!!!

Paul and Ruth invited us for lunch on Sunday to their home in Durbanville. On our way, we stopped to buy some wine. Not a single liquor store was open, not the Spar, nor the Pick 'n Pay could sell us wine. Because it's Sunday! We were quite disgusted. Back in Joburg ...



At Durbanville Hills Winery (a very modern, quite ugly building) we bought 2 delightful 2000 Merlot's and 2 white wines. Hein just barged in, grabbed the wine and put it in front of the guy with his credit card and a gleam in his eye – just try and tell me I'm not allowed to buy this wine! They didn't mind at all. Off we went.

Our starter was shrimps with fresh herbs and toasted French bread, lamb chops, mash and veg's for main and choc chilli cake with ice cream for dessert. And coffee of course! We were home by 4pm.

On Monday morning Lynette (owner of the flat) came by to drop some keys. I asked her for a lift to the Blouberg Mall, bought few things and walked back. I was sitting in bed, reading, when my eye caught something in the ocean right in front of the flat. Whales! They stayed there for the whole day.

Hein had a few drinks on Monday night and came home with half a pizza from The Blue Peter Hotel. What a lovely pizza. Mince and chilli, but the crust was so crispy and delightful. Quite a change from the usual.



We were invited for dinner to Marnel and Pieter in Protea Hoogte, Brackenfell. There were 10 adults and 2 children. The children were watching tv in the main bedroom, while the adults gorged themselves on cream cheese and sweet chilli sauce, biltong, gherkins (Marnel made them) and cheese straws while toasting in front of their Jetmaster.

Dinner was meat and chicken lasagna, fresh rolls and greek salad. Can't remember when last I had lasagna! Dessert was Koeksisters, brownies, choc cookies and brown dumplings with custard/ice cream. And coffee of course!

Wednesday morning Karin, Kevin's wife, picked me up and we drove through to Paarl. We had to have a cheese platter! It was so hot (25-26 oC), we couldn't wear jerseys. We drove through Paarl first, since Karin hasn't been there for ages. Showed her my old high school, city hall where I had my matric farewell and then we drove past this house ... and stopped right there. Beautiful old-fashioned house with loads of big, orange pumpkins on the tin roof! It turned out to be a private home but also an art gallery. What a house!

All the floors are covered with peach pips and then covered with a dark resin. In their bathroom, all the walls are covered in tin sheets and the bath is an old wooden wine barrel that can accommodate 10 people! Think of their water bill when they want to take a bath. Most of the art is from local people and they are very good and excellently priced as well.

We were starving by then so we drove back to Fairview's restaurant, The Goatshed. Sat outside on the terrace with the glorious sunshine on our backs. They have a nice menu, but the cheese platters are a novelty. They have A5 papers on the table. One side a descriptive listing of about 14 different cheeses. On the other side they have only the cheese names with a square next to it. So you can choose your own cheeses. Either 6, 8 or 10. Although the portions are small, a 6-cheese platter with a gorgeous homemade ciabatta bun will be more than sufficient for lunch. They also have an interesting rooibos drink with berries and sugar on the rim of the glass. We had such a lovely time, watching the goats on their tower and enjoying the beautiful scenery.



The Goatshed also features food-and-wine evenings and there is a wonderful little shop filled with cheeses and preserves. http://www.fairview.co.za/index.php?page_id=12

I really felt like sushi, so Wednesday night we went to the Cape Town Fish Market on the way to Melkbosstrand. We always order 'seared tuna sashimi' as a starter. They didn't have any tuna. Okay ... bad start.

When Hein went to the sushi conveyer belt, there were only about 8 plates on the whole of the belt. And only 2 different varieties ... Needless to say, we walked out with a huge bill and feeling quite deprived. Even a sandwich would have been better.

Thursday I discovered a shorter route to the mall and did it both ways! Walked back in only 16 min. Now I can have a chocolate...



On Thursday night we went to The Blue Peter Hotel for sundowners and pizza. We grabbed the last available table outside. The hotel is, except for a road, right next to the sea. So the sundowners are just indescribable! Hein had a very tasty curry and I had a bacon and avo pizza. Only half, so that I could have the rest for breakfast. They have curry buffet evenings on Wednesday nights for R55 per person.

Friday morning, our last morning, we wanted to have breakfast next to the sea before Hein goes to work. At 8am. Oh boy! Too early for the Capetonians. They only open at 9!!!!!!! We went to News Café and when we finished our breakfast at 9am, the electricity went off. Luckily they had a manual card machine ...

Hein dropped me off and I packed our bags. Our flight was only 16:40. Just after lunchtime we left to the Waterfront for a final beer with Kevin and Kobus. The weather was still fine, bit overcast, but we sat outside.

At 14:30, we said goodbye and I kid you not... it started to rain! We drove in pouring rain to the airport!

We usually fly Kulula from Lanseria Airport. Because of cheaper flights, we chose SAA. Those seats are so thin, when we arrived in Joburg, my bum was quite numb! It was freezing cold back home.

Saturday morning we picked up our 'kids' and braaied a boereworsie for breakfast. Heaven!