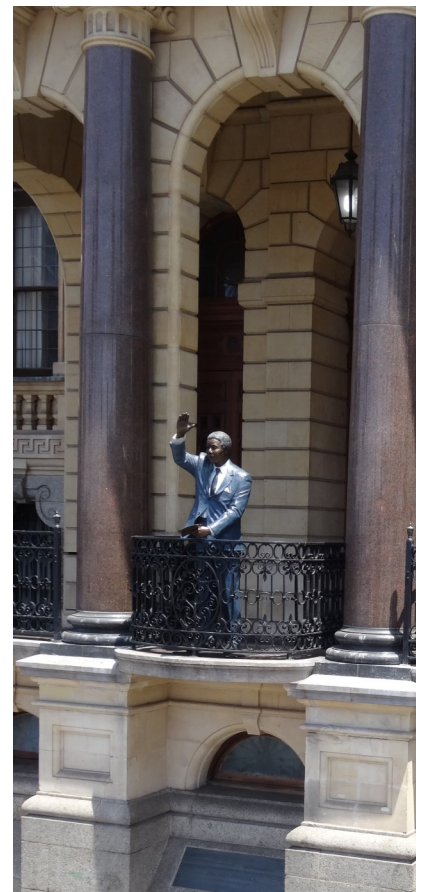


After a light lunch in the Gardens and our walk through this oasis in the city, we caught the “Yellow” bus which follows a relatively short, but very interesting, route through the center of the city.



It passes places as varied as the many churches and museums in the center of town, to the “night life” areas (where jazz is very popular) to the original Dutch fort (left) and the spot where Nelson Mandela addressed tens of thousands after his release from prison.





Perhaps the most poignant spot is an area of grassland called District Six. This is where, in the 1960s and '70s, tens of thousands were forced out of their homes (as the bulldozers crushed them) in an effort to force segregation and eliminate any areas where the three major races could co-exist. Fifty years on, this large area is still mostly bare and serves as a memorial to the worst years of Apartheid.



Back in the market area, we took the “Blue Route” bus which makes an almost two hour circuit around greater Cape Town, visiting such places as the world famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, the original Wine Estates of Constantia, a shanty town (right next to million dollar mansions).



Here in Imizamo Township 30, 000 live on a very overcrowded hillside in primitive conditions that are perhaps more clearly seen in the picture to the left.

Finally we were driven to the ritzy beach areas of Hout Bay, Camps Bay, Clifton and Bantry Bay. This last 30 minutes along the Atlantic coast is certainly the most scenic but the rest of the trip underscores the diversity and range of wealth that exist side-by-side in this wonderful city. And all the time, the mountain



that includes Devil's Peak, Table Mountain and Lion's Head provides a steep and rocky backdrop as well as a beautiful green slope at its base. On a warm and sunny day such as the one we experienced today, it is difficult to imagine a more beautiful location for one of the world's finest cities.



*Cape Town—The World's Most Beautiful City?*

Tonight we had another dinner at a wine estate in Stellenbosch – this time at the Delaire Graff. As with Rust en Verde, everything about this nine course meal was excellent and, once more, we were over three hours in the restaurant before being driven back to the villa.

### **Friday November 16**

This morning we were visited by Pat, the concierge who takes care of Mark's villa. We spent about an hour having a very interesting discussion about the state of affairs in South Africa and she, as most painted a rather bleak picture. On the plus side, most here seem to have some faith that the current president is less corrupt than his predecessor and have hope that he can bring about some change – but it is a monumental task.

After Pat had left, we drove into Camps Bay for a light lunch and spent another very pleasant two hours watching the young crowd enjoy another warm and sunny day at the beach.

Tonight we ate at the Greenhouse restaurant in Constantia – the original wine district of South Africa. This was another tasting menu; this time comprising nine courses and every one of them had several ingredients. The “mains” included duck, beef, octopus, tuna, salmon and prawns and there were three desert courses. Each course was presented in a unique way – from table-side cooking of the prawn on a 400 degree stone to quail eggs and other delicacies set on branches of a “tree”. The whole meal took about 3 hours and we believe it was perhaps the best – certainly the most interesting – that we have enjoyed on this trip.

### **Saturday November 17**

We had our final (for this trip) breakfast cooked by Natasha but will see her once more for dinner before we leave for the airport tonight. The rest of the day we spent around the villa, packing and getting ready to leave but we still managed to get a couple of hours in Camps Bay for a last look at the ocean and a light lunch near the beach. During that time we were entertained by a couple of make-shift troupes of singers and dancers

(aged between five and fifteen, perhaps) who were trying to make a few rand performing between parked cars—and dangerously near the passing traffic!



After our final dinner at the villa (for this trip), we said our farewells to Natasha and Pat and Jerome picked us up about 9:30 for the 45 minute drive to the airport. Our route home (now Sunday) took us on KLM to Amsterdam and then home on Delta via Atlanta. It's a long trip – but South Africa is rapidly becoming one of our favorite destinations and we are already looking forward to a return visit sometime soon.



