

Letter of 09/21/2015 from newlyweds Lawrence & Jessica DiRienzo

Re: NEW ZEALAND

Family and friends,

We arrived safe and sound in Auckland Wednesday, September 9th.

The past 11 days we have spent finding an apartment, settling in and exploring some of what Auckland has to offer. Larry had a first successful week at work and is enjoying getting to know everyone around the office and new terminology.

On average it's been about 50 – 60 degrees. Much cooler when coming from the hot weather in Denver but we look forward to another summer in the coming months! We hope fall is treating you well. ☺📧

Our new address is:
624/35 Hobson Street
Auckland, New Zealand 1010

For the next 6 months we will be renting a studio apartment within the Heritage Hotel located downtown Auckland. Included in rent is a ROOFTOP gym and pool. Larry and I are both very excited to be living downtown for the first 6 months and look forward to venturing out of downtown in the near future.

[Heritage Hotel Studio Apartment Photos](#)

We have found nothing but great hospitality from everyone here and dollar signs, \$\$\$. Ha. Auckland is a bit expensive but we are finding out about all the “local” spots that are more reasonable.

Last Saturday, September 12th, we ventured to Waiheke Island for the day. We boarded the ferry and enjoyed a 40-min ferry ride over to the island followed by a bus tour. During our bus tour we visited 3 vineyards, Stonyridge, Wild on Waiheke and Mudbrick and 1 olive grove, Rangihoua Estate. Stonyridge introduced us both to our new favorite sauvignon blanc which is not locally sold in the New Zealand area. Go figure. We will be returning to Wild on Waiheke as this was a unique winery and brewery with multiple activities on site including life size chess, bocce ball, archery and laser claybird shooting. Last but not least, Mudbrick Vineyard was absolutely beautiful and had the best views out of the three. Once we completed the bus tour we walked down to a local fish and chip shop that the tour guide informed us about. There we had some wonderful salty fish and chips followed by a lovely evening walk (rather climb as it was very rocky) along the beach where we then spread some of Beverly's ashes.

[Waiheke Island Day Trip Photos](#)

Saturday, September 19th, we joined Jen and Cory a couple KPMG moved out here 5 years ago that we were fortunate enough to meet in the states a month before moving out here. They hosted us to two farmers markets where we enjoyed scrumptious crepes, Turkish food and fresh local produce. We then took an afternoon trip to Mount Eden. Mount Eden, also known as Maungawhau in Maori. Maori is the Polynesian language spoken by the Maori people, the native population of New Zealand. Mount Eden is the highest of Auckland City's volcanoes, centrally located and a great way to see the city and more of the north island from a distance.

[Mount Eden Photos](#)

*3rd picture is of two volcanoes from a distance

Next weekend we look forward to renting a car, learning how to drive on the right (wrong) side of the road and exploring more of the North Island. Stay tuned.

Cheers.

Jess & Lar