

#1 LIFESTYLE=MEMORIES ARE PRICELESS

Jan and Bill in Madrid, Spain, 2003

After driving with our son, Clayton from Aspen to Denver for a day of shopping, we jetted from Denver to Philadelphia and then straight to Madrid, Spain. The next day we arrived early in the morning having barely rested and checked into the Miguel Angel Hotel in downtown Madrid and rested most of the day. This is a great property in the middle of town, which we highly recommend. The following day we engaged a tour guide who took us to picturesque Toledo, a medieval fortified town, famous for its durable steel blades. Toledo is situated in the bend of a river and is accessible by easily defended bridges. Our driver took us to a hotel on a mountain above Toledo to look at the expanse of the town. Toledo was originally occupied by a monastery and convent with a great number of clerics until recent time. We spent several hours inside the walls of Toledo winding our way through narrow cobblestone streets, viewing many classical Spanish structures and the old massive gothic cathedral. Back to Madrid we spent the afternoon at the fabulous famous Prada Museum viewing Goya's original paintings. His early gaily-painted portraits changed after the war with the French and were very depressing in their anguish. Interestingly, Goya was a traitor to Spain and ended his years in France. The following day we were pampered at the fabulous David Lorente salon, written up as the number one spa in Madrid in Elle magazine, September 2003, Spain edition! Fantastic! The chairs we sat in while our hair was washed were massage chairs. Champagne, tea and chocolates were served throughout the afternoon. We finished off our Madrid adventure with a fabulous lunch at the beautiful Ritz Hotel and prepared for the long haul overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.