



# Nicola & Ben To Say 'I Do'

Back home for a few weeks, Nicola Breytenbach took some time out of her busy schedule to chat to people about her upcoming wedding!

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW & PICTURES!

**EVERY** little girl dreams about her wedding day. The dress, the cake, the venue – and of course, her knight in shining armour.

And now, at 29, that day has come true for South African beauty Nicola Breytenbach, who recently announced her engagement to boyfriend of eight years, Ben Steiner.

It's been a crazy few years for the model, who has not only made a name for herself back home, but managed to grab people's attention around the world. Currently living in the Trump Towers in New York (Ben grew up with the Trumps), the model spends her days mingling with the stars – when she's not skiing on the slopes in Aspen, that is. But, while her career has been her number one priority over the years, it's going to have to take a step back over the next year or so – after all, planning a wedding is not as easy as it seems (especially when you're a celebrity!).

Before we got started on the 20 questions, during our chat recently, we had to ask the most important one – how did Ben propose? Nicola tells us the story, while trying not to giggle.

They were at home, in their New York apartment. Her dad and brother were there visiting, and they were all getting ready to go out. Out of the blue, Ben walked into the room where she was blow-drying her hair – with a ring in his hand. "At first I thought it was a joke," she says. "We were running late, and while we've spoken about it before I really didn't think he was being serious. He took the ring out, looked at me and said, 'Should we get married?' He then put the ring on my finger. He was so nervous."

So, was it love at first sight? "No, I actually wasn't attracted to him at first. I met him through friends, and he was very quiet – like a big, gentle giant. I was

very intrigued though." With a successful career and a husband on the way it seems things are going pretty well for the big SA star. So, what is it really like to be Nicola Breytenbach at the moment? According to her: "Absolutely crazy. I'm busy planning the wedding, converting to Judaism and trying on dresses – it took me a month or so to get used to it all." Talking about dresses, who she has chosen to design it? "I haven't decided yet. I like Oscar de la Renta, Christian Dior and Vera Wang. Versace has offered to make my dress, too. I would like two dresses though – one for the ceremony and a comfortable one for the reception," she says.

And the big day – have they set a date, chosen a venue? (We want to know it all!) "We haven't chosen a venue yet, although we'd both love to get married on Ben's farm in Virginia. It's beautiful there. We often go there on weekends to get away from everything – it's so peaceful! As for the date, we want to wait for Ben to finish his MBA degree, in May 2008, which he is currently studying at George Washington University in Washington D.C." Ben and Nicola are not just venturing into a marriage though, the pair have started their own clothing line in New York, called Heavens – a range of men and women's jeans and T-shirts. "It's quite weird having to go into an office all day, but I've wanted this for so long, so it's great. I'm hoping to bring it to SA one day, too." Ben, who also works in financing, is enjoying the challenge, too (we can only imagine how different it must be for him!). But does the new clothing line mean she'll be saying goodbye to modelling for good? "No, I will be taking a break, and won't be able to travel as much, but I won't stop modelling completely." But you'll still be making trips back home? "Of course, I come home at least four times a year. We are actually thinking of buying a house here – in Cape Town." It can't be easy settling down while being involved in the modelling industry. Surely people will see her differently as a married woman? "Yes, a bit. But I think people respect you more when you're married."

Is it scary for her to make things official? "No, not at all. I've thought about it for so long," she says. "We've been together for eight years."

So, are we going to have to get used to hearing about Nicola Steiner from now on? "Well, that's a tough one. I want to take Ben's surname, but it will be difficult with my career. I might hyphenate it – but the problem there is, it will be so long. We'll see."

But while Nicola's beauty shines brightly inside and out, what is it she loves most about her husband-to-be? "The way he is with me. He always listens. We also love the same things and want the same things out of life." Surely he does something to drive you up the wall though? (The relationship wouldn't be normal without that!)

"I'd have to say, the way he chews his food. Oh, and the way he taps his feet – he just can't sit still," she says, with a giggle.

Okay, so work is good, the wedding is on the way – what about kids? "I can't wait to have kids. I want a whole bunch – and soon."

Maybe the honeymoon will be a great place to start trying – since the pair are thinking of spending a month or so away (somewhere far, like Asia).

And, as for a peak into the future. "I see myself as a mom, with three kids, and still working in the clothing business – from home."

Sounds like a dream, and we're pretty sure she'll make it all come true!

