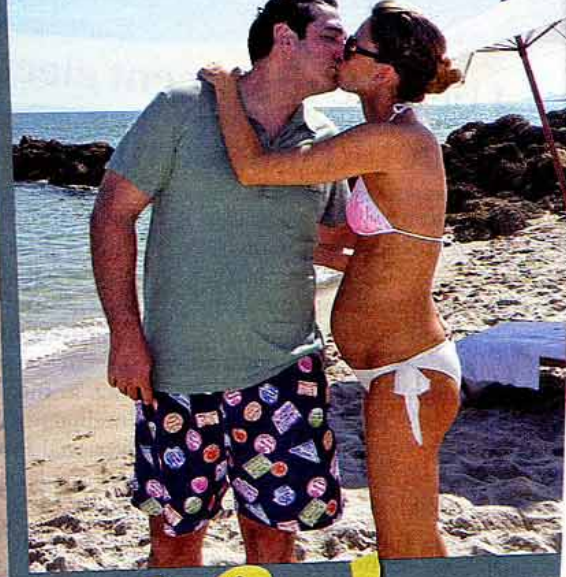




THIS PICTURE and FAR RIGHT: Nicola Breytenbach-Steiner is expecting a baby. RIGHT: Nicola with Ben on Fisher Island off the coast of Florida.



By Jared Orlin

NICOLA BREYTENBACH - PREGNANT IN NEW YORK AND OH-SO HAPPY!

Life's swell
FOR model mom

SHE has strutted the catwalks in the fashion capitals of Paris and New York, posed for dozens of glossy magazines and regularly rubs shoulders with the likes of Donald Trump and illusionist David Blaine.

But these days all the talk in the New York home of SA-born Nicola Breytenbach-Steiner and her husband, American businessman Ben Steiner, is prams, nappies and baby formula.

"Yes, I'm pregnant," Nicola (31) confirms when YOU calls their home.

"This has been a dream for more than 10 years. It's the one thing I've wanted more than anything else. It's a

dream come true," she says.

Nicola had tried to fall pregnant since returning from honeymoon in Italy so when she started feeling a little odd in November she did a home pregnancy test. It was positive.

"We were in Tel Aviv for my father-in-law's funeral. That trip was one of the saddest in my life but also one of the happiest."

Ben (31) is equally excited. "What can be more exciting

than becoming a parent?" the dad-to-be says.

They're expecting a little girl who's due to make her appearance in mid-July.

So why did they wait so long to announce the pregnancy?

"In a Jewish family you wait a little longer than the usual three months," Nicola says. "But we did tell family and friends."

They haven't settled on a name yet. "We're still going

through baby-name books. We tend to like the same names."

Nicola and Ben recently moved into a three-bedroom apartment in Manhattan's Upper East Side which they'll rent for a year while builders finish work on their dream home, a luxury apartment in Tribeca in Lower Manhattan.

That explains why they haven't started on the baby's room yet.

Although the first-time mom has read up on motherhood she knows it won't be the same after the baby's arrival. So they have hired Linda Reid, a South African maternity nurse who lives in the UK, to help Nicola for the first three months.

"She specialises in newborns. The fact she's South African is a huge plus for me."

Suddenly she stops talking. "Oooh, she's kicking," Nicola gasps. "Ben likes to feel her moving around."

"I can see she's going to be daddy's little girl. In fact Ben has already asked me, 'What am I going to do if she asks for something? I won't be able to say no.'"



LEFT: Delighted dad-to-be Ben enjoys the evidence that their little girl is on the way. ABOVE: A few months before the birth Nicola is as chic as ever.

