



**AFTER THEIR
HECTIC ST-TROPEZ
WEDDING NICOLA
AND BEN CHILL OUT
ON HONEYMOON**



FROM TOP: How YOU reported on Nicola and Ben's lavish wedding; at the marina in Portofino, Italy; enjoying sundowners at a local bar; the yacht on which they're spending their honeymoon.



By Jared Orlin



THE luxury 35-metre yacht with its fully equipped kitchen and five-member crew bobs in the clear waters off the coast of Portofino, Italy. The weather is perfect and the newlyweds are soaking up the sun on the deck.

Model Nicola Breytenbach, in a white bikini, is absorbed in a book and her millionaire American husband, Ben Steiner, is taking a catnap.

As Nicola adjusts her designer sunglasses and turns a page she thinks, "This is really it. I'm finally on honeymoon."

After their lavish wedding that saw 580 guests descend on the Steiner's estate in Saint-Tropez on the French Riviera (YOU, 3 July) Nicola and Ben are lapping up the mellow Mediterranean sun and enjoying their time alone.

"There were so many people at the wedding we didn't spend much time together," Nicola tells us when we reach her by phone. "The honeymoon is our chance to savour the moment. We're taking it

easy. On the first day we felt a bit stressed but by the second relaxation had kicked in."

The couple originally planned a two-week honeymoon on the Pacific island of Bora Bora but have postponed those plans until next year.

"I've dreamt of going to Bora Bora for years and it's going to be amazing. But Ben's dad isn't well so we both wanted to be near him," Durban-born Nicola says.

Jeffrey Steiner divides his time between Paris and New York and his son and new daughter-in-law plan to see him after their Portofino break.

Meanwhile the newlyweds are making the most of every moment. In the mornings they enjoy a leisurely breakfast on the deck whipped up by the onboard chef ("Who's a Durban boykie, nogal," Nicola says) before going jetskiing, which they've both been hooked on for years.

The rest of the day passes in a lazy haze of refreshments and swimming before they head to shore for sundowners – a vodka tonic for Nicola and a mint julep for Ben.

Then it's off to dinner. The first

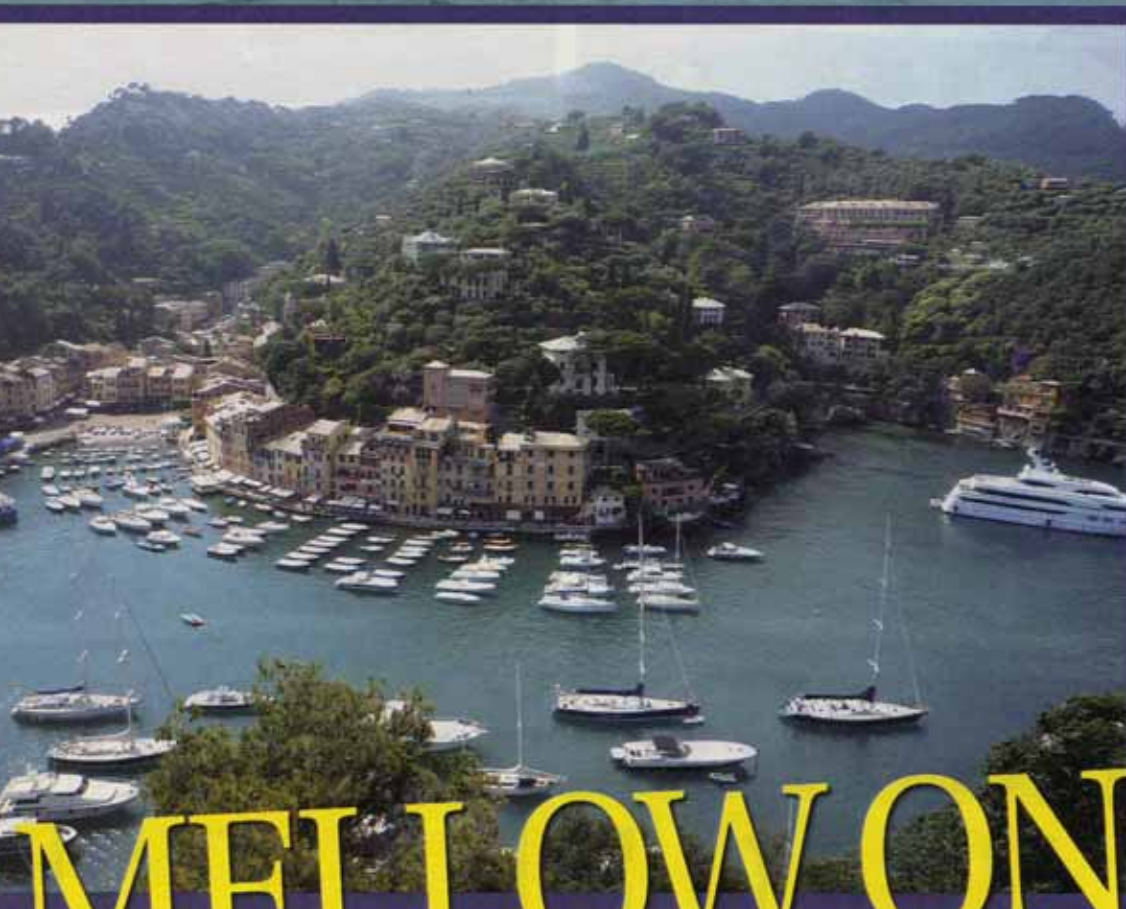
evening they enjoyed a hearty meal at what they say is one of the finest restaurants in the world – a quaint family-owned establishment called O Magazini.

"We asked locals what the best restaurant in town was and they directed us to that one," Nicola says. And they weren't disappointed.

She had a warm seafood salad and Ben tucked into a tomato seafood pasta as they enjoyed fine Italian red wine.

"The seafood pasta was so good we ordered two more to share, then took a further 10 portions as takeaways to eat





MAIN PICTURE: Nicola Breytenbach and her husband, American businessman Ben Steiner, relax on their yacht while on honeymoon in Portofino, Italy. **LEFT:** The breathtaking view over the bay.

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later and for the crew to enjoy too. I've never tasted anything so good in my life."

They wanted to return to the restaurant the following night but it was closed "so we ate on the yacht under the stars instead", Nicola says.

They've indulged in a little shopping too. "My honeymoon gift from my husband is a pair of earrings. It was such a surprise," she says. "We walked past a jewellery shop and next thing Ben says, 'Let's go inside'. He picked out a pair of gorgeous diamond

drop earrings, insisted I try them on and bought them for me."

The lovebirds are sightseeing and have hiked in Portofino's botanical gardens and up a cliff to a castle overlooking the bay. "The view is amazing. There are little waterfalls everywhere," Nicola says.

THE only thing that has changed

since the wedding is she and Ben are talking more about the future than before, Nicola says. "We dream about what our lives will be like 10, 20, 30 years from now."

As for the pitter-patter of little Steiner feet, they've started working on that already, Nicola says with a giggle.

"We want kids right away. It

doesn't matter too much if it's a boy or a girl but there are lots of girls in the Steiner family so there's a bit of pressure to have at least one boy. We'd ideally like one of each and then maybe one more after that."

Just as well she and Ben are moving from their New York apartment to a larger home on Fisher Island, a tract of land the Steiners own off the coast of Miami.

Ben will join the diverse family business which covers various industries from property and aerospace to retail.

"We're just working out the finer details of the move but it's pretty much a done deal," she says excitedly.

Between her modelling commitments she wants to become a perfect hostess and plans to host Fridays' Shabbat dinners at their new home – as soon as she has mastered traditional Jewish dishes that is.

"I'm going to start taking cooking lessons right away," says Nicola, who has converted to Judaism.

"We want to have Shabbat at our house every week. Food has become my passion and I want to learn to cook the food Ben grew up with such as chicken soup with matzah balls."

No doubt her loving new husband will be saying *mazel tov* to that. □



FAR LEFT: The couple have fun jumping off Ben's 35-metre yacht into the warm Mediterranean. **LEFT:** Nicola soaks up the sun while dipping into a book. She's an avid reader, particularly of fiction. **RIGHT:** She and Ben are enthusiastic jetskiers.

