



**How long have you been in the industry? And do you see yourself in it for much longer?**

I have been modelling for the last nine to 10 years. I would like to do it for a bit longer. I'm enjoying it and the money is good.

**Is there a specific shoot that has stuck in your mind?**

Definitely my Revlon contract – it was huge, especially knowing what it meant for my career! I was extremely nervous on the day of the shoot, but everyone was so nice and they made me feel very comfortable! It was great!

**You've done a lot of travelling over the years. Where is your favourite destination and why?**

I love Cape Town, my hometown. But, besides South Africa, I loved St Barts. I also love Harbour Island in the Bahamas. It's a small island with no cars, only golf carts, and it's very secluded. The sand is pink. It's gorgeous and very romantic.

**Are you happy overseas and do you ever miss SA?**

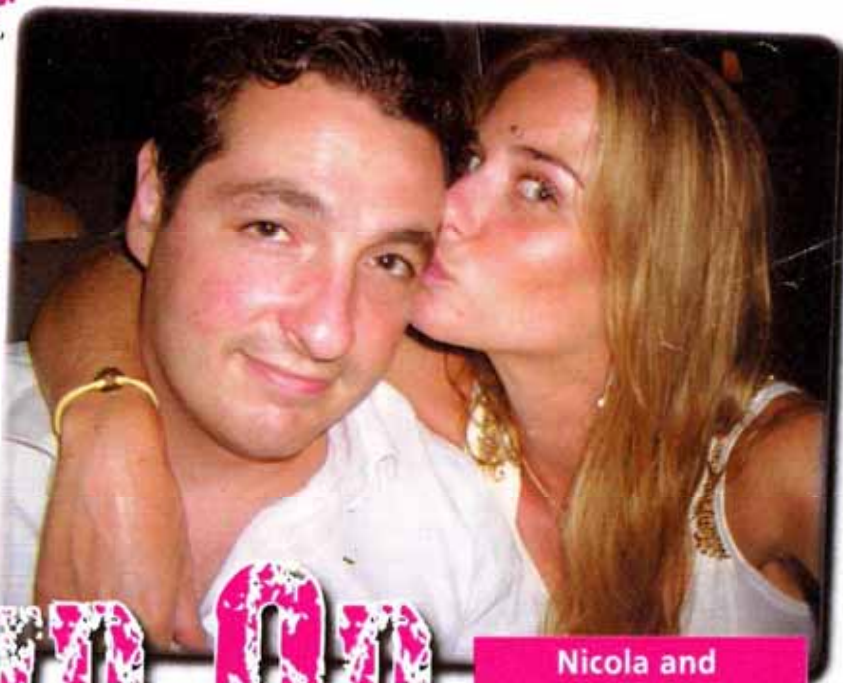
I am very happy in New York – I love the vibe and energy. But I also love the people here at home. I guess you're always connected to your own country!

**What advice would you give a young girl who is thinking of entering the modelling world?**

I would tell them that they can't take anything seriously. This industry is very superficial and you're going to get rejected and put down. I struggled in the beginning, but you have to ignore it all and keep going.

**You and Ben (Steiner) are getting pretty serious. Has the topic of marriage come up yet?**

We've been together for seven years and yes, the topic of marriage has come up. But we are at a good place right now. I'm not travelling as much, which gives us more time together. I think we know each other better now than ever.



Nicola and boyfriend Ben.

**The Low-Down On**

# NICOLA

# BREYTENBACH

She's beautiful, she's striking and she's making a name for herself around the world. Nicola Breytenbach is, without a doubt, a true South African success story!

**H**OW many South African women can say they've been in the same room as Madonna, Brad Pitt, Jennifer Lopez, Tom Cruise or Orlando Bloom?

And how many people can say that Joan Collins and Wayne Gretski have 'dropped by' their holiday home in St Tropez? Well, Nicola Breytenbach can – and she has! She's not only one of SA's top models, but Nicola has managed to blow the world away, too. And, by the look of things, this is just the beginning!

Here, she tells us a bit about her incredible life.

## Why did you go into modelling?

I actually got into the industry by chance. It was not planned. I was in my last year of high school when I went with my mom to the hairdresser. He said he knew an agent in Amsterdam and that I should give modelling a try – so I did! And here I am!

## Has anything embarrassing ever happened to you on a shoot or during a fashion show?

Well, during a fashion show for *Vogue* VH1, which is the biggest show in the industry, I tripped on stage and fell flat on my face. There were famous designers and actors in the audience, which made it even more embarrassing. But luckily the girl behind me didn't just walk off. She stopped and helped me up. You can only imagine how fast I walked to get off that ramp!

## Every woman out there is dying to know – how do you stay in shape?

When I was younger I didn't really exercise. But, now that I'm older I have a personal trainer in New York, who I work out with three times a week. I don't diet, I just eat healthily and never deprive myself of anything. I eat everything in moderation. There's no trick actually – it's pretty simple!

## What would you like to do in the future?

I'm not sure. I'd like to do some designing. At the moment I am busy working on a small role in a movie called *Black Diamond* with Leonardo DiCaprio – so that's very exciting!

## How do you deal with the constant media attention?

I don't really have much of that in New York and Europe – only in SA. I have to admit I'm enjoying it for now as it is still the beginning. It's overwhelming.

## If you could meet one person in the world, who would it be and why?

I know everyone says this, but I would love to meet Nelson Mandela. I've always wanted to meet him and I hope that somehow, someday, I will!

## Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Definitely married with a big family.