



‘It’s just us two in this relationship and we’d like to keep it that way’

Splashing about in the Whitsundays, our lovebirds lap up the romantic vibe. ‘Here we can hold hands and nobody stares!’ explains Matilda.

◀◀ “This year has been amazing, but it’s been hectic. We haven’t had a lot of time to just do nothing. We moved into our house two months ago and there are still boxes to unpack! So it’s about finding work-life balance.” Adds Art, “We haven’t had a day or a night with no plans for about a year. “We both work full-time and we do so many things outside of that. And there’s

the added pressure of being in the public eye so much, so our lives are pretty full-on and stressful. That’s why it’s nice to come away and visit places like this.” **Camera ready!** There’s little chance that public interest in their modern-day fairytale will die down soon, with Kiwi fans asking for photos everywhere they go. While most people are lovely,

Art and Matilda admit the interest can get a bit intimidating sometimes. She shrugs, “Look, we’ve realised that New Zealand has been on this journey with us from the start, so there’s a little sense of ownership and people feel like they’re part of it, which they are to an extent. But we’ve got a lot better at figuring out where the line is and keeping things just for ourselves. It’s been a

learning curve. At the end of the day, it’s just us two in this relationship and we’d like to keep it that way!” In the Whitsundays, though, the pair have a little more freedom to be like any other couple, strolling down a stunning white beach by themselves ... oh, and our photographer and make-up artist in tow! “Art isn’t a huge fan of PDA,” grins Matilda, “but here we can

hold hands and nobody stares!” Of course, now they have their own little house to hide away in, a luxury that’s still a novelty for the couple. “We just fit together – we’re great roommates,” says Art. “She doesn’t even have any annoying habits.” “Neither do you, actually,” Matilda replies, “The only thing I used to do that annoyed you was leave stuff on the bathroom floor, I’m a little

messy, but I haven’t done that once in the new place. That’s respect!” The fun-loving couple take the mickey out of each other almost relentlessly, but Art says that even if they annoy each other, they “just go with it”. “Like how I use the butter as a stick when I’m making toast,” he smiles as Matilda rolls her eyes. “Why use a knife? It’s just like a giant glue

stick. And, of course, Matty had a problem with it at the start. Now I catch her doing the same thing.” “Yeah, well, I still don’t like the old toast crumbs getting stuck in the butter!” she says with a faux grumble. Banter, they tell, is one of the most important parts of their relationship. “It’s awesome if you’re best mates too,” Matilda grins. “We can hang out as friends as well

and not be coupley all the time. Maybe that’s why we don’t get sick of each other.” As our photo shoot finishes and the intense sun begins to set, a family of turtles swims lazily past the yacht and the pair take a little time to themselves on the boat’s bow, sharing a sweet embrace and a giggle. “It’s definitely been a great year,” Matilda nods. “We can’t wait for the next one.” **WD**

TEXT: KELLY BERTRAND; PICTURES: ROBERT TRATHEN. HAIR: MAKE UP & STYLING: JAMES AFAMSHAW. ART WEARS: AMAZONI; ZARA; MATILDA WEARS: BIRD & KIDDE; COLETTE; SEASONS; HEIDIKUM; MOUNTIDE. THANKS TO @GOABOATING.