

COCKTAILS WITH MAYE MUSK

An intimate tête-à-tête series inviting prominent cultural figures to divulge their secrets.



We catch up with the Canadian-South African model at height of her career, which spans five decades. At 68, she is the ultimate self-made woman—who happens to be Elon Musk's mother.

Favorite cocktail: What's your poison?

Rum and diet coke. You can't go wrong on that. It's fool-proof. Low in calories, a nice buzz, and you don't even taste the rum. But, actually, I don't drink that much. It can interrupt your sleep.

If a drink reflected your personality, what would be in it?

Well, I'm very sweet, and I'm very cool. [Laughs] The funny thing is, I drink Sailor Jerry rum and my friends tease me about it. "You're so classy," they say sarcastically, because it's not expensive. But it's got some nice spice to it. And, I suppose, so do I.

What's your biggest vice?

Who cares? If I have a vice, well, then that's what I have.

I'm not jealous of anybody. I don't smoke. Sweets are my downfall. I just can't have them. If I start on them, the wheels come off. Just one? You don't understand, that's not possible. I don't order dessert.

What was your best-ever night out?

Oh, Bradley ... I was invited to a party in the meatpacking district in New York. It was down in a basement! I thought, I'm three times older than everyone, what the hell am I doing here? But this guy with huge dreadlocks comes along, and says, "Let me get you a drink." It was the street artist Bradley Theodore. We really hit it off! He and his girlfriend invited me to dinner in Brooklyn, on their roof deck ... and we sat and watched the Manhattan skyline.

What was your most embarrassing public moment?

I can't remember! It's been so long since I've been embarrassed. At this stage, if my petticoats are sticking out and my bra strap is showing, I don't care one bit.

What do you do to escape?

I walk my rescue dog, Del Rey. We love to go on long morning walks. He's a fluffy little maltese terrier mix.

What's your favorite bar in the world?

This one. It's so sophisticated. I love the chandeliers and the flower arrangements. Each is so beautifully done, I want to photograph every inch of this room. I feel like a real tourist here.

What books are on your bedside table right now?

Diane von Furstenberg gave me a signed copy of her life story [The Woman I Wanted to Be, (Simon & Schuster)] during a luncheon with her husband, Barry Diller, on their yacht in the Croatian islands. She is so fabulous and kind. And then, of course, Ashlee Vance's book about Elon [Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future (HarperCollins)].

What words do you want to see written on your tombstone?

Well, let me tell you about my mother [Wyn Haldeman] who died at 98. Before she died, she said to us: "Rejoice and visit me when I'm alive. Don't have a funeral. Don't come and cry over me. Get together to visit me."

So I say this to my kids, but I don't know if they're going to listen to me: "Just put my ashes in a shoebox and throw it away. If I'm gone, I'm just gone. There won't be any tombstone. I don't want one. Remember all the good times. We've had a lot of good times together."

THE BAR This interview, conducted by editor-in-chief Jennifer Parker, took place at the Baccarat Hotel in New York City in January 2017. Satine's Bramble, a vodka-based cocktail served chilled with crème de mûre and basil, was the drink of choice. 20 West 53rd Street, baccarathotels.com