

Mindy & Doug Mayor

The quintessential Flying Adventures couple

“Where was I?” asks pilot Mindy Mayor over breakfast at Mulligans in Santa Barbara, CA. “I mean, we have had so many flying adventures it’s hard...I think it was San Francisco...”

“L.A.,” interrupts her adventure-mate and husband, Doug, also an avid aviator. “We did the whole Rodeo Drive experience...”

“Oh, yes, and that really fun West Hollywood stuff,” says Mindy, interrupting Doug’s interruption. “But then we sidebarred off from the *Flying Adventures* adventure and did the Getty...”

Uh, excuse us? We’ll take this chance to do our own butting-in on the discussion.

To hear Mindy and Doug Mayor enthusiastically recount the many flying adventures they have taken straight from *Flying Adventures* magazine is to experience all the delight promised by the odysseys and escapades – the trips, treks, and great escapes – reported in its pages. The warm and witty Scottsdale, Arizona couple, who spend the desert’s hottest months at their Santa Barbara home, not only get excited while describing their airborne gadabouts, they also are roving ambassadors for the lifestyle the magazine celebrates. For when it comes to a *Flying Adventures* flying adventure, the Mayors are on it. If it is a destination featured in its pages, the Mayors are there. And when the two of them talk of all the fun they thus have shared, Mindy and Doug fairly sizzle with zeal for the “serendipity” of taking to the air, for travel memories well made, and for the bliss of having the best co-pilot possible in life – each other.

So how did the adventurous couple

come to represent the reader for whom the magazine speaks? The aviator for whom this 10th anniversary issue – like each and every edition – is dedicated?

Simple, says Doug. “It’s our lifestyle.”

The flying lifestyle of Mindy and Doug Mayor is a mix of passions, pleasures and



Kalamazoo, MI native, earned her wings after they married, the mad-for-flight Mayors have made the air their favorite venue for work and play – and more.

As committed volunteers with Angel Flight West, the organization of 1,600 pilots who donate their hours on nearly 3,000 annual “missions” on behalf of people in need of transportation for, typically, medical attention, Mindy and Doug fill many of their hours with heartfelt purpose. When the Mayors recently flew to San Francisco for a dinner date and overnight at the romantic Orchard Hotel, their companions were two deaf children they took to Yosemite. When the couple swooped through the wine country of Santa Maria, CA on their way to in-line skate Venice Beach, L.A., their passenger was a child with cerebral palsy who they shuttled to the hospital for treatment.

“See how the *Flying Adventures* adventures work into our Angel flying?” says Doug. “We make it work.”

Of course, Mindy and Doug Mayor are not ones *not* to make things work. Beautifully. Ever since the day they met 19 years ago when Doug, now retired, hired Mindy to join the board of directors of his highly successful Kansas City real estate development company, the flying adventurers-to-be have finessed their airborne lifestyle into a creative and rewarding work of art.

Doug’s apprenticeship in the pursuit began in Lawrence, Kansas, when as a student he earned extra cash by ferrying airplanes for Beechcraft, all Bonanzas, and flying cattle buyers to and from auction.

“It was great,” he raves. “It gave me



money enough to fly and really launched my love of it.”

A 1962-63 Navy stint flying anti-submarine warfare detail followed. Many ferociously productive years later, when it came time to retire from the mad, mad world of what Doug describes as “hundreds and hundreds of homes” and offices and retail space, and trade for new vistas a fine understanding of how to “build ’em, keep ’em, rent ’em and sell ’em,” the Mayors were at no loss at all for replacement passions.

All they had to do was “get initiated” into the first *Flying Adventures* Doug found at an FBO, he says, and the revved-to-rove Mayors were off.

“The itinerary is planned,” says Doug of his favorite stories.

“We’re taken all the way there,” says Mindy, who got her pilot’s license in 1996 and today flies here and there keeping her hand in the real estate biz. “If the magazine

likes it, whatever it is, I usually do, too.” She laughs: “It has such excellent taste!”

Flying to the Napa Valley for three days of wine-tasting and golf at the airport-close Chardonnay club. Buzzing to Santa Monica, CA to cruise around Hollywood in a cute Mini Cooper. Winging into Santa Ynez, CA for gallery-going in the artists’ colony of Los Olivos. If the past seven or eight years *Flying Adventures* has described a trip that tantalizes the Mayors’ enduring love of a quest...

“It goes on our list,” says Doug.

“And we’re there,” says Mindy.

The Mayors are on the move, all right. They have ferried to Sausalito for an al fresco dinner overlooking San Francisco Bay. Acted the role of wrangler at the swanky Alisal Ranch. Sipped sensational Syrah in Santa Barbara county. But have they golfed the Dragon, that famously difficult Nevada course near the Frank Lloyd Wright-

designed lodge called Nakoma?

“It’s on the list,” says Doug.

Have they visited Mismaloya, Mexico?

“Doug, write that down,” says Mindy. “It sounds like a good one.”

To this couple, good times, good treks and good adventures – lots of them – are all part of an airborne lifestyle that’s “clear and simple,” says Doug. “It’s the love of flying and the love of golf...” ; the love of being an Angel to children and the love of having fun. It’s picking up a copy of *Flying Adventures*, reading of a destination, and then with your best and most constant cockpit companion, taking off into the wild blue yonder of what Doug calls a wonderful “serendipity.”

“That’s us,” says Mindy.

“Yes, it is,” says Doug.

Eager to take-off on their next exploit, the Mayors lean over their breakfast in anticipation. So, they say, almost in unison, *when does the next issue come out?* ✕