

JAN 2021

BILTMORE LIVING

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Meet the
Hellmund-Coll
family!

GAME, SET - They're a perfect match!

WRITTEN BY NORA DONOVAN

The lake is one of Cristina & Luis' favorite amenities in the Biltmore Lake neighborhood.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK A DULL BOY, yet Luis Hellmund, 42, and Cristina Coll, 32, remain worlds away from being compared to that. The husband and wife duo own and serve as the only employees for the highly successful South Slope Coffee, while also carving out time to relish in all the activities the Asheville area has to offer.

"We are definitely outdoorsy, active people. We both golf, mountain bike, ride motorcycles, hike and snowboard," Luis detailed, his voice inflecting a hint of a Venezuelan accent. When asked about their favorite trails to bike on, Cristina's almond brown eyes light up with delight.

"Do you mean motorcycles or mountain bikes?" Cristina questioned, ready to fire off her favorite bike friendly locales.

"We especially love Bent Creek, DuPont forest, Fire Mountain, Mills River and of course around the Biltmore estate," Luis said. The couple knowingly glance at each other from time to time, often as if they were preparing to finish each others sentences.

The happily married thrill seekers definitely experience some competition with each other when it comes to sports.

"When it comes to who is a better golfer, Cristina would be it," Luis admitted, albeit a bit sheepishly. "However, Luis is definitely the better snowboarder," Cristina said. The pair had to think a little harder of who would win the title of best biker, ultimately handing it over to Cristina.

"That would definitely be me," Cristina said, beaming proudly. They both struggled to contain their laughter.

"He rides really well," Cristina explained. "However I am more aggressive. I like to go at full speed and he takes it easier. But still, he is really good at it."

MEETING IN MIAMI

The balancing qualities of their biking styles can be comparable to how successful their union has become.

The couple both were born in Caracas, Venezuela however never crossed paths until they happened to be living in Miami.

"We met through Luis parents in November of 2011. We were supposed to initially meet playing golf, however Luis was not able to go that day," Cristina said.

The two finally met by attending a concert together at the Bayfront park amphitheater in Miami, a stunning event space just steps away from the beach that offers breathtaking water views as the backdrop for the many musical performances they host.

"It was a Latin-rock concert, featuring just a bunch of different Latin rock acts playing for a festival," Luis described. "Coincidentally, the festival never happened again."

While the music may have stopped, the magic between them was just beginning.



Every year, Luis & Cristina take to the Colorado slopes for some snowboarding action



Cristina, Stout and Luis stop for a selfie while hiking Mt. Pisgah



Cristina, living it large with her favorite team - the Pittsburgh Steelers



Luis, takes his eyes off the road to enjoy the spectacular views

"We then played golf together, went on bike rides and noticed we were perfect for each other," Cristina said. "From there on out, we have barely been apart."

WORKING THEIR WAY UP

Before their first date, Cristina and Luis led lives in Miami not entirely separate from each other.

"I was a professional photographer for about five years in Miami. I photographed a little bit of everything, events, architecture, I did those two things mainly," Luis said. "I also photographed some sports for the magazine I worked for, such as sports sponsorships for Sony Ericsson."

Cristina added finding out they attended many of the same events, before knowing each other.

"We did go to a lot of the same sporting events, he would be taking pictures and I would be all the way up in the stands at the same

time," Cristina further explained. "But sadly no, we were not together."

Aside from being a photographer, Luis tried his hand at many other occupations. After obtaining a degree in finance from the University of Miami in 2002, Luis became a licensed real estate agent.



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"It is what I really wanted to do, I wanted to be in real estate. I went to learn about the sales part because I always really wanted to build," Luis said. "Unfortunately, the 2008 financial crisis happened and business came to a screeching halt."

"I was always a photographer ever since I was a kid, and due to the lack of real estate opportunities, my hobby became my profession."

Cristina graduated from Barry University in 2010 with a degree in advertising.

"My dad influenced my decision to study advertising. He has worked in advertising all his life in production and television commercials. It is just what I always wanted to do, however it obviously didn't work out," Cristina laughed. "I never did anything in that area."

After completing her studies, Cristina pivoted to work in the golf industry.

"I started working with a golf company and then low and behold we got into the coffee business," Cristina said.

MOVING TO THE MOUNTAINS

Luis and Cristina left their vibrant, tropical Miami lifestyle for the charming and mountainous atmosphere of Asheville. Luis's mom owned a house in Asheville since 2009, and their many visits up north cemented their need for a change of scenery.

Settling into the Biltmore Lake neighborhood, they now can't imagine living anywhere else.

"If given a choice," Luis said without hesitation, "we would probably live in this community for the rest of our lives. The lake and the trails, the amenities. Being able to just walk outside of my house and take my bicycle or take a run or take a hike up on the trails. There are so many wonderful paths to choose from, you can honestly never take the same trail twice. There is a lot to do, it is never boring."



Aside from all the amenities, Cristina attributes the quiet nature of the neighborhood remains a favorite quality of hers.

"I feel safe," Cristina said. "It's very peaceful."

"It's a quiet neighborhood, everyone is super nice. The neighborhood is great, everybody is great. Overall, it is a great place to live," Luis added.

Asheville's ambiance wasn't the only change experienced for Luis and Cristina. The move brought on a change of career paths for the both of them as well.

While living in Miami, they began to learn about how coffee was processed. After purchasing

an at home coffee roaster, they soon discovered they had a talent for roasting coffee. Giving away coffee to friends and family reinforced their talents, as they recalled often received compliments regarding the superior quality.

They soon opened South Slope Coffee, located in Candler, and have not stopped roasting since. Their well deserved success can be derived from their ethical business practices as well as their high standards regarding the quality.

"We only purchase green coffee from some of the best farms and producers in the world, partnering with importers who have the same ideals we do, which is treating everyone with respect and fairness," Hellmund described.

When asked what types of coffee they resonate with, Hellmund and Coll immediately knew their response.

"For me, I would go with the Guatemalan coffee origin," Coll described. "I would brew it with the aeropress or french press. That's my comfort cup."

"I would definitely go with Ethiopian," Hellmund added. "Just because it is super complex, fruity, sweet, floral. And I would no doubt brew it in a pour over."

For more information regarding Luis Hellmund and Cristina Coll, head on over to southslopecoffee.com



calendar of events

WHAT | WHEN | ASHEVILLE

TUESDAY, JAN 12

Live Stream - Barbara O'Connor Launches Halfway to Harmony, in conversation with Amy Cherrix

Time: 6 pm

Cost: FREE

New York Times bestselling author- and Asheville resident - Barbara O' Connor discusses her latest novel, Halfway to Harmony. Link to the free live stream available on malaprops.com/event

THURSDAY, JAN 14

American Red Cross Blood Drive @ 8 Town Square Blvd, Suite 110, Asheville 28803

Time: 11 - 4 pm

Cost: FREE

Give back to the community by donating blood to the American Red Cross. Adults only. Appointment required. Visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 20

RAD Farmers Market @ 289 Lyman St.

Time: 3 - 5 pm

Cost: FREE

Stock up on locally grown and organic fruits, vegetables, breads, honeys, jams, cheeses, meats, plant starts, hot sauces and more!

FRIDAY, JAN 22

Slow Art Friday - The Human Spirit. Virtual Exhibit

Time: 12 - 1 pm

Cost: FREE, registration is required. To register, visit: <https://shop.ashevilleart.org/products/slow-art-fridays>

Join Kay Dunn for an interactive, in-depth discussion regarding three artworks in the Asheville Art museum's collection. www.ashevilleart.org

SATURDAY, JAN 23

Hard 2 Recycle- Asheville GreenWorks @ AB- Tech, Enka Campus. 1459 Sand Hill Rd, Candler.

Time: 10am- 2pm

Cost: FREE

Not sure how to dispose your home of old electronics, batteries and other hard to recycle items? Simply come by the Hard 2 Recycle event and GreenWorks will recycle them properly. www.ashevillegreenworks.org

MONDAY, FEB 8

Live Stream: H. Byron Ballard Launches Roots, Branches & Spirits: The Folkways & Witchery of Appalachia

Time: 6 pm

Cost: FREE

Asheville resident and author H. Byron Ballard will discuss the deeper meaning of magic hands for finding, haint blue doors, and herbs and plants for healing. H. Byron Ballard will sign and personalize copies purchased at Malaprop's! Please put your personalization request in the comment section during checkout. Registration is required, RSVP to the event at malaprops.com/event



SPOTLIGHT ON | Asheville Art

BY HALEY CLEMENT

JANUARY 15TH - FEBRUARY 26TH, 2021

In celebration of the Blue Spiral 1's 30th Anniversary, we are tipping our hats to the many artists who have made the gallery one of the nation's most exciting venues for contemporary fine art and studio craft. Forfeiting our usual exhibition schedule and artist invitationals, our gallery family will be on full display on all three levels from January through June! These artists - whether painters, sculptors, glass blowers, ceramicists, weavers or photographers - define the heart of the gallery and its mission to celebrate the arts. The gallery will be rotating works out regularly, creating new vignettes and pairings allowing the opportunity to discover something new with each visit.

Some of the exhibition highlights include landscape paintings, intricate silk weavings, colorful abstracts and an array of sculpture covering a multitude of mediums on the Main Level; renowned glass artists paired with Black Mountain College alumnus and

painter Frank Hursh and gallery favorites Mitchell Lonas and Scott Upton in the Lower Level; a contemporary photography exhibit in the Upper Level Gallery; a solo show featuring long-time gallery painter Bethanne Hill in the Small Format Gallery.

In honor of John Cram (1948-2020), founder of New Morning Gallery, The Village Arts and Craft Fair, Blue Spiral 1, Bellagio Art-to-Wear, and Fine Arts Theatre, we will be placing extra focus on our past, our present, and our exciting future. John Cram embodied the gallery's mission best by creating a world class home for regional artists. The Blue Spiral 1 family will honor John by continuing the beautiful legacy he laid before us. As part of our celebration programming, we invite you to visit the gallery and our website to learn more about the amazing impact John had on our local arts community and beyond.

