

# people

LOCAL APPEARANCE

## Pretty woman Niki Taylor enjoying family time

**Niki Taylor** is in nesting mode. Pregnant with her fourth child, her second with NASCAR driver **Burney Lamar**, the supermodel is happy just to chill out on the home front in Nashville.

"I'm very much a homebody," admits Taylor, who was born in Coral Gables and grew up in Miami Gardens (Andover Park) and Pembroke Pines. "I went out in Miami back in my 20s. I think I got it all out of me!"

The supermodel, 36, geared up some gusto to make an appearance Thursday night at the grand opening party for natural-stone distributor Opustone Gallery in the Design District.

She was just named the face of the brand, which is good timing. Taylor and Lamar are building a new home in the Nashville area and are shopping for sturdy stuff that can "withstand a lot of traffic."

Their house is a full one. Two-year-old daughter Ciel is at an active stage, and Taylor's twin sons (from her marriage to former Miami Hooters player **Matt Martinez**) are 16 going on 30. The boys are looking into careers as music producers and may study at Full Sail University in Winter Park, Fla.

Fine with Niki. She gets back to the Sunshine State at least once every two months, and her parents still live in the same Pines house they had when she was growing up.

"The home has always been important to me, and I've always been passionate about my family," she says. "I've been blessed with my work. We've been so busy. It's nice to come home and relax."

Her busy year included doing **Donald Trump's Celebrity Apprentice**. She was "fired" on the fourth episode after failing to win her RV-decorating challenge as project manager.

"It does play with your mind a little bit," Taylor admits of the NBC hit. "It's a case of 'Why didn't I say that?' or 'Why didn't I do it that way?'"

But she's relieved she exited before the cat fighting between **NeNe Leakes** and **Star Jones** began.

"I made some good friends and raised a little money for my charity [the American Red Cross], but you started seeing some of the true selves coming out," she says politically. "I couldn't understand why [the women's team] couldn't pull together and say, 'Let's beat the boys!'"

If Taylor were coaxed into doing anything reality related again, it would have to have more meaning. Her problem, if you could call it that: She's too nice.

"I would rather be the host of something uplifting and encouraging," says the former host of Bravo's *Make Me A Supermodel*. "I'm not one to go, 'Your walk was really bad.' That's not me. I'd rather bring somebody up than down."

Right now, she's focusing on being a mom again. Luckily the pregnancy has been kind.

"I feel great," she says. "I'm just hungry all the time!"

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