



MISS+UNIVERSE
ORGANIZATION

A Donald J. Trump & NBCUniversal Partnership | **TRUMP** NBCUniversal

GABRIELA ISLER MISS UNIVERSE 2013

On November 9, 2013, Gabriela Isler made history when she was named Miss Universe, becoming the seventh woman from Venezuela to bring home the crown.

Representing a country with such an impressive Miss Universe track record can be a source of added pressure for Venezuelan beauties competing for the ultimate title. But for 26-year-old Gabriela wearing the Venezuela sash was a great honor allowing her to compete with confidence and pride onstage. Venezuela is known for intensive training programs for its beauty queens. Gabriela credits her age and life experiences for giving her the ability to make her own decisions on how she wanted to present herself at the pageant, even at times when she was given instructions from her Venezuelan director. One request of pageant coaches to which she did acquiesce, was to wear only high heels during her three weeks on location in Russia.

Surprisingly, prior to winning the Miss Venezuela title, Gabriela – a stunning beauty at nearly six feet tall – never saw herself having a career in front of the camera. Rather, she was focused on her studies and graduated from the private institution, UNITEC with a degree in marketing and business administration and eventually plans to open her own business after getting her MBA. While going to school, Gabriela was introduced to the modeling world unexpectedly when a scout spotted her unique features which she attributes to her father who is Swiss and German.

Modeling led to Miss Universe Venezuela “and the rest,” as they say, “is history.”

Gabriela has used her title to bring attention to important issues around the world, especially those that involve women and children. This past spring, Gabriela traveled to communities in the Philippines that were hit by Typhoon Haiyan and launched the Miss Universe Cordaid Fund. Cordaid, a Dutch development agency, continues to raise awareness and funds for the affected areas and works to implement programs for its people, specifically women and children, to become more resilient for the future. Her efforts with Cordaid and the Philippines has been recognized by the Vatican and resulted in a public humanitarian blessing from Pope Francis. As Miss Universe, Gabriela also serves as a spokesperson for HIV/AIDS awareness and works closely with organizations such as God’s Love We Deliver, Latino AIDS Commission and Aid for AIDS, among others. During her reign, Gabriela has spent time on Capitol Hill to support amfAR, one of the world’s leading non-profit organizations dedicated to the support of AIDS research, prevention, education and the advocacy of sound SIDS-related public policy.

Gabriela has embraced the whirlwind her life has become since becoming Miss Universe. Just after winning the crown, she was whisked away to a luxury apartment in New York City, which serves as her home base while she travels the globe on behalf of the Miss Universe Organization. The most difficult part about making the transition to New York...winter. Gabriela, who has been home to Venezuela only once briefly over the holidays, has had to make the adjustment to one of the coldest winters on record in New York. Having to adjust to the changing climate didn’t stop Gabriela from being recognized immediately for her fashion statements as she was named Best Dressed at the 2013 Latin Grammy Awards after presenting an award in Las Vegas. Soon to follow, Gabriela also presented the award for Artist of the Year at the Latin Billboards. The Venezuelan beauty has made headlines throughout her reign since the fall



A Donald J. Trump & NBCUniversal Partnership | **TRUMP** NBCUniversal

of 2013 making #4 on Huffington Post Latino Voice's "Top 10 Most Influential Latinos in the World" list as well as being selected as one of People en Espanol's 25 Most Powerful Women.

Gabriela is a self-described "compulsive planner" and has found adjusting to an ever-changing schedule to be a bit of a challenge. "I am used to making my own schedule and I know my own calendar very far in advance. It is sometimes difficult to board a plane for a two week trip and not know what I will be doing every day but I think this experience will make me more flexible in the future." Gabriela loves to travel and has made sure to enjoy every moment of her reign. "I know it will go by very quickly and I need to make the most of every opportunity," she adds. "I miss my family very much but they are all very proud of me and very supportive."

Family is what Gabriela says is the most important part of her life. She credits her mother, Emperatriz, for the strong values she learned growing up. Throughout her childhood, Gabriela was surrounded by a large extended family but had to move away from them following her parent's divorce. After the move, she lived with her mother, grandmother and older sister, a trio of independent women who impacted her life greatly and forced her to grow up quickly. Gabriela worked hard to support herself through college and took an active role in helping her sister Karen raise her daughter. During her spare time, Gabriela enjoys baking and watching movies.

ABOUT MISS UNIVERSE

The Miss Universe Organization (MUO) is a Donald J. Trump and NBCUniversal joint venture which uses its global grassroots reach to empower women to be self-confident and strive to be their personal best. MUO believes that every woman should be "Confidently Beautiful." The MISS UNIVERSE[®], MISS USA[®], and MISS TEEN USA[®] beauty pageants provide an international platform through dedicated partnerships with charities, sponsors, and brands around the world. During their reign, our winners are given the tools to personally and professionally enrich others by providing humanitarian efforts to affect positive change, all while developing their personal career goals. For more information, and to learn more about Miss Universe's official cause to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS education and prevention around the world, please visit: www.missuniverse.com.

Follow Miss Universe:

- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/MissUniverse
- **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/MissUniverse
- **Twitter and Instagram:** MissUniverse