



A Soft Landing

The living is easy and oh-so-inviting for new Members Susie Coelho and Mike Peel.

ADVENTURESOME COUPLE Susie Coelho and Mike Peel readily admit to always being on the move. Between their busy careers and mutual love of travel, they seldom touch down in one place for long. The special magic they've found at The Vintage has convinced them to linger.

A starlit dinner with friends at the LakeView Grille laid the groundwork. It was January 2020 and afterwards, as Mike and Susie strolled past the Clubhouse's stunning water feature, he turned to her and said, "Now, tell me again why we're not at this club." Those were all the

words Susie needed to hear. By the following morning, they were in full search mode with Jamie at the sales office and in a happy coincidence ended up buying a property from one of Susie's longtime friends.

No stranger to the desert, Susie's former in-laws and grandparents of her two children lived at Eldorado Country Club and were also Vintage Club members. She herself has owned a home at Marrakesh Country Club for 15 years. The couple married in 2017 following a long-running bicoastal relationship but Susie was never entirely certain if Mike even liked the desert all

that much. "We'd come down from our L.A. home and when I would ask, he'd say it's fine." These days, Mike is a little more effusive with his praise.

Remodeling their patio home was a natural task for Susie, whose multimedia lifestyle company, Susie Coelho Enterprises Inc. (SCE), has long set trends in the lifestyle and fashion spaces. "Susie is a brilliant designer," says Mike, a consultant and former executive at General Mills, PepsiCo, and Yale University. He leans into desert living, adding, "There's a saying in corporate life: You ought to lead, follow, or get out of the way, and I get out of the way!"

Naturally, the pandemic provided ample time for long-term projects. While Susie coordinated contractors, she also worked on her fifth book and a documentary. Meanwhile, Mike found his own quiet workspace at the Clubhouse. He ended up in a ballroom with the concierge helping him to copy and scan. "It was probably the biggest office I've ever had," he says. "I find the desert very peaceful and conducive to getting work done."

Of course, there is more to life than work, and The Vintage accommodates. "Both of us used to play tennis," Susie says, "and because there is such a great facility and program here, we're suddenly both hooked again." The couple frequents the well-equipped gym and also enjoys hiking in the local mountains. Neither plays golf but Mike doesn't rule out the possibility. "I'm sure we will eventually," he says. "We have very low will power."

Between the two of them, they have four grown children who are already making plans to visit. Susie's children have fond memories of the orange freeze drink The Vintage concocts especially for kids and asked for it specifically. California's warm weather will be a nice respite for Mike's offspring who live on the East Coast. They all look forward to spending Thanksgiving and many other periods of time here together.

Their new home is shaping up to be a space to work, socialize, and simply regroup and rest. "In terms of social activities, there is so much going on here, but there's absolutely no pressure to engage," Susie notes.

"The Vintage is the most welcoming place I've ever experienced," Mike adds. "People are incredibly down to earth. There's a great sense of community here."

—June Allan Corrigan



Susie Coelho and Mike Peel.

GEORGE GUTENBERG