

Perfect 10

PERFECT 10

Nikola Jokić: “Beach, massage, sea, sand... perfect”

Unfazed by fame and fortune, the NBA star’s top-rated travels involve family, his horses, and a free bottle of water next to the bed

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On the court, Denver superstar center Nikola Jokić possesses a magician’s knack for sleight of hand, effortlessly hurling single-handed passes without so much as a telling glance. And when Jokić (aka “The Joker”) is ready to shoot, the opposing defense is basically helpless against his signature move, the deadly half-step fadeaway “Sombor Shuffle,” named after his hometown in [Serbia](#). With his creative and instinctive style, some commentators have even called the two-time MVP and 2023 NBA champion a “basketball genius.” Not bad for a second-round draft pick.



Jokić's hoop magic may be intricate, but off the court, The Joker keeps it simple. Very, very simple. When reporters read off his NBA record-breaking stats in hopes of nudging him toward the type of self-aggrandizing sound bites so common in professional sports, Jokić stares down at the table. He lets long silences hang in the air before answering with a non-committal, deadpan, "Huh. It's nice." And how did it feel to lead his team to an NBA Championship win, they ask? "It's good," he says, looking at the floor. "The job is done and we can go home now."

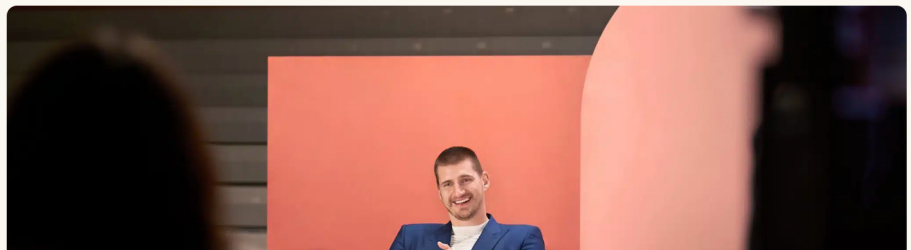
When it comes to recalling some of his favorite hotel stays, the 6'11 six-time NBA All-Star is similarly droll, highlighting only his most beloved essentials. "We went to the Playa del Carmen [Andaz Mayakoba](#). Our balcony was right in front of the beach and best, best, best beach, drink, massage, relax, sea, sand: perfect." Another one of his favorites: "In Philadelphia, the [Four Seasons](#). Food is amazing. People are pleasant; people are really nice that work there."

"That's my wife's bucket list. So it's mine, too"

Nikola Jokić

The only thing that could spoil a nice hotel stay for Jokić? "When you wake up in the middle of night and you don't have a water next to you, you're ready to do anything for it," he says. "It needs to be in a rule book or whatever: Hotels need to be punished if there is no free water in the room."

Beyond team travel and family vacations, Jokić's trips often center on following his other passion, harness racing (a form of horse racing where horses pull a two-wheeled cart and driver). Growing up in [Sombor](#), Serbia, he fell in love with the sport, which he still pursues in the offseason, so passionately that some might wonder which he considers a hobby, the NBA or the horses.





Fans learned of the depth of his dedication to racing when, after the team's 2023 championship win, a reporter asked if Jokić was looking forward to the champions' parade. He anxiously looks off camera: "When is parade? Nooo... I need to go home," he says, later explaining that he races horses in Sombor on Sundays. The sport has taken him to Italy, Sweden, France, and other countries across Europe.

Though widely regarded as one of the best basketball players of all time, and despite all the fame and fortune his skills on the court have earned him, Jokić says his perfect day in his perfect somewhere would take him back home to Serbia with family: wife Natalija, also from Sombor, and their two-year-old daughter. "I would be at home, wake up, work out. Go see my horses, go to lake house, prepare food, spend time with my family," he says. "And then there's a little bit of drinking and go home, sleep—I can do that every day."

That said, he does foresee a few epic trips in his future. While Jokić claims not to be a big "traveler guy," it seems Natalija possesses a strong sense of wanderlust. The latest destination being discussed in the Jokić household? "Safari... That's my wife's bucket list. So it's mine, too," he says—proving he's as much of a team player at home as he is on the court.



Martina Sheehan
Writer



Nikola's perfect somewhere's



**Four Seasons
Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, PA



Four Seasons Maui

Maui, HI



Andaz Mayakoba

Playa del Carmen, Mexico

"Our balcony was right in



**Four Seasons
Miami**



The Chicago

Chicago, IL

"I love when we go to Philly. Food is amazing. People are pleasant."

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"Really good. We went hiking. Some kind of jungle. We went to see volcanoes, but it was foggy, so volcanoes was... bad."

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front of the beach and best, best, best beach drink, massage, relax, sea, sand—perfect."

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📍 Miami, FL

"When you wake up, breakfast is fresh. The fruits are amazing. Everything is top class."

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"There's Chicago work in arrive, wine, and that's a

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