

THE WORLD'S RICHEST SUPERMODELS

Who said that a modelling career was fleeting? These top supers have proved that beauty and brains are a killer combination and stayed at the top of their game for more than a decade to become some of the highest earning stars in the world. HELLO! takes a look at the stylish life of the world's top three multi-millionaire models



Brazilian-born Gisele has topped the World's Top Earning Models list for the third consecutive year with a reported worth of US\$150 million

GISELE BÜNDCHEN

Brazilian bombshell Gisele recently topped *Forbes Magazine* 'World's Top-Earning Models' list for the third year running. But while the 5'11" blue-eyed, Amazonian beauty boosted her reported US\$150 million fortune by a whopping US\$25 million according to *Forbes*, who calculated estimated earnings from June 2008-June 2009, she's concentrated on matters closer to her heart this year.

Following not one, but two, weddings to long-term beau American football star Tom Brady, Gisele announced her pregnancy in June and the superstar couple's first child is due in mid-December.

Gisele, 29, is also stepmum to Tom's son, John Edward, from his relationship with actress Bridget Moynahan, and the two-year-old tot attended both the couple's super-secret church nuptials in Los Angeles in February, and their follow up April wedding at the bride's fabulous Costa Rican estate.

Family has always been important to Gisele. One of six sisters, she employs her non-identical twin sister, Patricia, as her manager.

As a statuesque teenager in her native Brazil, Gisele harboured early dreams of becoming a professional volleyball player. Her destiny was secured however when she was spotted by a model agency scout while in McDonalds in Sao Paulo when she was just 14.

After success in a series of worldwide modelling competitions, Gisele moved to New York in 1996, where her coltish limbs, glossy mane and sun-kissed skin took the Big Apple by storm.

Making her name on the runway with a record-breaking US\$5 million per year contract with Victoria's Secret, gorgeous Gisele wasted no time in diversifying and building her brand when her life as an 'Angel' ended in 2007. She's appeared on over 500 magazine covers, holds lucrative advertising deals with Versace, Dior and True Religion Jeans and designs a super-successful line of sandals called *Ipanema Gisele Bündchen*.

So with Brand Gisele expanding on all fronts, our only question is what next? A baby line perhaps?

HEIDI KLUM

If Gisele needs any tips on how to juggle supermodel stardom with motherhood she need look no further than runner-up on the *Forbes* list, German model-mogul Heidi Klum. Heidi and superstar hubby Seal, who married in May 2005, are expecting their fourth child in October, who will join the couple's brood including daughter Leni and sons Henri and Johan.

And the main reason we love Heidi? This 36-year-old supermum only seems to improve with age. Since breaking into TV as the host and executive producer of *Project Runway*, as well as the host of *Germany's Next Top Model*, her career has skyrocketed. Her earnings this year top US\$14 million, and still she finds time to flaunt her fabulous figure on the catwalk thanks to her ongoing contract with Victoria's Secret.

While Heidi's hazel eyes, blonde locks and 5'9" frame may have earned her a fortune, this supermodel had a head for business from the very beginning. After winning the 'Model 92' competition in Germany just shy of her 19th birthday, she kept it real by securing a "lawyer, worldwide insurance, and a telephone that is always with me as a permanent connection to my parents". She also trademarked her name.

After a stint studying fashion design, she cut her modelling teeth in Milan, Paris and Miami, until relocating to New York in 1993.

As well as gracing the cover of *Sports Illustrated* magazine's prestigious swimsuit edition, she's reaped millions from contracts with Diet Coke, McDonald's, Volkswagen and Schwarzkopf. She also designs her own line of Birkenstock sandals.

Today she has a rose named after her, an Austrian postage stamp bares her image, and her personal empire includes the 'Me by Heidi Klum' perfume line and a skincare range called 'In An Instant'.

With a red-carpet style to die for, whether she's clad in couture gowns or thigh-skimming shimmering creations, the ever-fabulous Heidi is always accessorised by her equally stylish hubby and her trademark megawatt smile. No wonder she's just had a Barbie doll named after her!

Heidi Klum has strutted the catwalk for 13 years and ranks second as the highest earner. The model mother has three children with number four on the way



KATE MOSS

It may come as a surprise that perennial party queen Kate Moss is currently the world's third highest earning supermodel, with earnings estimated at US\$8.5 million. For following her well-documented struggles with substance abuse two years ago, she swiftly lost multi-million deals with Chanel, Burberry and H&M, among others.

While she bounced back with advertising contracts including Stella McCartney, Louis Vuitton and Rimmel, Kate has British Topshop tycoon Sir Philip Green to thank for her burgeoning bank balance these days.

It was Sir Phil who persuaded Kate to cash in on her long-standing status as an international style icon and turn her hand to designing. And in May 2007, her self-titled clothing range, sold exclusively at Topshop, was launched with much fanfare – and success – in the UK.

Regarded as a modelling veteran even though she's still only 35, Kate has enjoyed an already legendary career since she was spotted by model agent Sarah Doukas at JFK airport in New York aged only 14.

Her big break came in 1993 courtesy of a campaign for fashion giant Calvin Klein. But the advertising posters depicting Kate's skinny frame attracted huge public controversy and were largely blamed for the so-called 'skinny chic' era of modelling.

The fashion world couldn't get enough of her edgy but elfin appearance, however. Known as 'the waif', she worked for all the elite fashion houses and regularly appeared on international runways, even though at 5'6" she was unusually short for catwalk work.

But if Kate's fashion journey has been colourful over the years, it pales in comparison to her love life. Ex-boyfriends include Johnny Depp and *Dazed and Confused* editor Jefferson Hack, father of her six-year-old daughter Lila Grace, Babyshambles frontman Pete Doherty, Maddy Collins and current love rocker Jamie Hince.

With a reputed US\$80 million fortune in the bank and a smouldering new campaign for Yves St Laurent's new perfume *Parisienne*, the latest rumour is that Kate has been paid a cool US\$2 million to pen her autobiography. We can't wait!

She started a media storm with her model waif look – the familiar face fronts campaigns for the world's leading brands and has designed her own range for Topshop