


Jersey MAGAZINE CITY

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By: Tara Ryazansky




Jersey
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Kayla and Jean-Laurent



Photos by Maxim Ryazansky

Newlyweds Jean-Laurent and Kayla Canasi Di Scala are also new residents of Jersey City. This past May, they moved from New York City's SoHo to The Enclave, a luxury building near the Holland Tunnel between Hoboken and the Jersey City Heights.

You enter the open-concept apartment through the spacious kitchen, which the couple agrees is the heart of their home. Back in SoHo things were a bit different.

"We had been ordering food every night in SoHo," Jean-Laurent says. "The kitchen was too small."

"You make anything, and the smoke alarm would go off," Kayla recalls. "I would have a broom in one hand."

Now they have plenty of room to entertain or to simply prepare dinner as a couple. "We do a lot of cooking," says Jean-Laurent. "Four times a week at least." There's room to spread out on the vast counter. Jean-Laurent describes one recent dish: "Filet minion with caramelized onions and goat cheese. We made a huge couscous as well."

"Jean-Laurent bakes," Kayla adds. "His family owns bakeries in Corsica, France."

"I make bread, brioche, croissants," Jean-Laurent says. "My mother-in-law just bought me a Kitchen Aid."

When the moms come to visit, they don't need to stay in a hotel. Jean-Laurent's mother lives in France, and Kayla's mom lives in Florida. "When they visit it's easier for them to have a place to stay," Kayla says.

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The large spare bedroom recently made the transition from study to guest room when Kayla finished law school. “I am waiting for the bar results,” Kayla says “I’m anticipating those results next week.”

Jean-Laurent works as a server at Le Bilboquet on New York City’s Upper East Side.

“He’s kind of been working his butt off while I’ve been studying and wrapping up law school,” Kayla says.

“It’s not easy, but we’re a good team.”

The commute is easy. The Enclave provides a shuttle bus that takes residents to the PATH train from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. This is included in the 24-hour concierge service and amenities fee.

Also included are perks like the gym, which has Peloton bikes and group fitness classes, including yoga. A saltwater pool features city views. Nearby are six rooftop grilling areas that the two use during the summer.

At an arcade area, residents and their guests can play without quarters. “There’s Pacman and Pong and air hockey, Kayla says. “There’s a ton of games. It’s like any boy’s dream.”

The Enclave offers workspaces and a pet spa. But it also has some creative amenities like a gift-wrapping station in the Amazon hub mail area.

Near The Enclave is a new dog park and children’s playground. The neighborhood is developing at a rapid pace. The couple speculates that in a few years there will be a lot more to do in the area. For now, they enjoy



bars and restaurants in neighboring Hoboken, where they explore the town on rented scooters.

There's also a Zen garden, which doubles as the Canasi Di Scala's backyard. Even if the new neighborhood is built to capacity, the Zen garden will maintain its tranquil privacy because it faces the ivy-covered rock wall that leads to Christ Hospital. The wall keeps the garden cool in summer.

Off their living room is an outdoor patio area where the two enjoy a coffee in the morning or a glass of wine in the evening. The space opens out into a well manicured lawn in the shadow of the Heights with a fire pit and hammocks. "We love to be here," Jean-Laurent says. "It's so quiet compared to SoHo. "You open the window in SoHo, and you hear a honk or people screaming, even at night."

"When we used to want to step outside, we were stepping onto the fire escape," Kayla says. "Here we step out into the Zen garden."

Jean-Laurent says, "It's incomparable."—JCM