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What Does 46 Look Like?

DENISE FERRIS, 46

Having combined her two passions (travel and riding), this former CEO reveals why life's never been better

► *Chance meeting, new love*

I was 37 when I first rode on the back of a motorcycle. Little did I know how much it would change my life. It all started when Mike Ferris, a motorbike tour leader from Sydney, and I met on a flight from Singapore to Australia. We chatted all the way home, exchanged numbers and went on our first date to my friend's 40th. Not long after, Mike took me for a spin and it was one of the best days of my life—I couldn't wipe the smile off my face. But the excitement didn't end there: Mike proposed five weeks later and I said yes!

► *My unexpected dream job*

When I met Mike, I'd been working as the CEO of The Humour Foundation, which puts clown doctors into hospitals around Australia. For the first year, I juggled that job with corporate consulting and learning about Mike's business, Ferris Wheels Motorcycle Safaris (ferriswheels.com.au), which takes people on amazing bike tours in places such as Turkey, Iceland and Morocco. As a surprise for Mike, I got my licence and signed up! After a hectic year, I felt due for a career shake-up, so in 2005 I joined Ferris Wheels full-time. Now, we run about 10 tours a year. Not only can I share my love of riding, but I can pursue my passion for travel. It's the best job in the world.

► *Inspiration made easy*

At 46, I feel more spontaneous and excited about the future than ever. I meditate, take helicopter pilot lessons and would love to run a marathon. I have wonderful female friends in their 50s, 60s and 70s who are fun, feisty and a constant reminder to step outside my comfort zone. There's no doubt about it: my motorcycle has given me a new lease on life. **22**



INSPIRING STORIES

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