

A man and a woman are shown in a close embrace, smiling warmly at the camera. They are both wearing dark, quilted winter jackets. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right, leaning her head against his. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with a hillside and some trees, suggesting a mountain or park area. The overall mood is intimate and affectionate.

CHRISTOPH & SILKE

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LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

## TO SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL,

We are Silke and Christoph, a loving, fun and active couple, who have been together over 17 years and our dream is to grow from a couple to a family.

We want to thank you for taking the time to look at our book and to get to know us a little better. We are honored to tell you about us and our life together.

Our journey to growing our family has had many ups and downs. But we never gave up our dream of being parents one day. All of these experiences have shown us how much we both stick together, how incredibly strong the trust in each other is and how committed we are to giving your child a loving and safe home filled with unconditional love.

We have deep respect and admiration for your decision. We wish you all the best and send you a lot of positive energy for your decision to find the best family for your child.

WITH LOVE & RESPECT,

*Silke & Christoph*







WE LIVE,  
LOVE AND  
LAUGH  
TOGETHER

“Silke is extremely loving and caring. Living with her is really fun. She is totally honest and open to everyone and I really enjoy time with her. She doesn't automatically consent to everything – which opens up new perspectives and even as it makes life sometimes more challenging, it's always in a good way. With her warm nature she will be a magnificent mother to your baby.”

*Christoph about Silke*

“Christoph is very lovable and he is very funny. He is also very consistent and straight forward in everything he does. We both accept each other unconditional the way we are. I think one of the secrets of our love is that we are complementing each other perfectly. He will be a wonderful father to your baby.”

*Silke about Christoph*

## OUR STORY

Christoph about our story:

"The first time I saw Silke was at my sister's graduation in 2003. She was the student's speaker, and her speech was not only very good, but also very emotional. I was immediately drawn to this woman.

The next day I had to leave for South America for two months. From there I wrote to my sister to ask her if she knew if this girl has a boyfriend. Half a year later my sister invited all her friends to a party in our parent's house and there we had our first chance to meet, talk and get to know each other.

Well, we fell in love and from January 2004, we were a couple. On June 20th, 2009 we got married. Our wedding was a day full of magic moments, which we were able to share with our family and our friends.

The following year we moved into our house. It was very special that exactly one year later, on our first wedding day, we were able to spend that night in our new home.

This is our happy place, to live and to laugh. We are delighted with the dream of sharing our happy place with your child."



OUR WEDDING  
IN JUNE 2009  
WAS EMOTIONAL  
AND FUN





# OUR TIME TOGETHER

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## SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS

Whether spring, summer, fall or winter –  
we love to spend time in nature.  
Hiking, biking, skiing, walking or just enjoying  
the sun, we truly love this time together and  
we are looking forward to spend it as a family.

TO SPEND  
TIME TOGETHER  
IN NATURE  
GIVES US ENERGY





# SKIING, OUR FAVORITE HOBBY



WE LOVE WINTER  
IN AUSTRIA AND  
SKIING IN THE ALPS



# WE LOVE TO TRY SOMETHING NEW

We are both very curious people and love to try something new and get to know other cultures. The lowest point we've ever been was Death Valley, California, the highest was the summit of Kilimanjaro in Africa. Silke started renovating furniture in our garage and Christoph learned how to water ski. We look forward to sharing our curiosity and discovering the world with your child.

TRYING SOMETHING NEW IS CREATING **SPECIAL** MOMENTS TOGETHER

Christoph not just loves skiing in the Alps but also loves water skiing.



At the highest mountain of Africa, Kilimanjaro. (19,341 ft)



At Badwater in Death Valley, California, the lowest point of North America at 282 ft below sea level.



Silke working on a new shelf in our garage.







## ABOUT CHRISTOPH

Together with my sister we grew up in Oberwart, a small town about 130 miles south of Vienna. My grandparents and many cousins lived nearby, and we had a very close relationship all together.

Sports play a significant role in my life. I played in a Handball Team during high school and University. But as soon as winter arrives in Austria, I'm drawn to the mountains to go skiing. I enjoy the freedom and the air up there.

I am also interested in travelling and getting in touch with foreign cultures. So, I spent six months at University in Valencia (Spain), completed a two-month internship in Caracas (Venezuela) and had three wonderful months in the USA with Silke. We lived in the bay area (San Francisco) while I was studying at Stanford University. Later we travelled through Colorado, Nevada, Hawaii and California.

Inspired by the American entrepreneurial spirit, I founded my own management consulting firm as soon as we returned to Austria. My office is based in Vienna and my independence enables me to manage my time flexibly and when we adopt, I will be able to spend lots of time as a Daddy!





"I love him unconditionally and unconditionally he will be a loving father to your baby, the best one you can imagine. I can't wait to see this."  
*Silke about Christoph*

## SOME FACTS ABOUT CHRISTOPH

- ... He is crazy about snow and skiing; together with his friends he even travelled to Canada for heliskiing, which means off-trail-skiing reached by helicopter.
- ... He loves to talk and to have conversations about exciting topics, like history.
- ... He enjoys the days when he is able to take a nap.
- ... He is the best breakfast chef in the world.



## ABOUT SILKE

I am a very bright and curious person who likes to try new things. While decorating my first apartment with my stepfather I discovered my love for interior design. This is still my passion. I love to give new shine to old pieces of furniture or to build a piece of furniture from scratch. It is always great to see things grow.

I love to spend time with friends and their kids - whether at home, playing board games or in nature. But I also enjoy the peace and security that our house gives us.

My childhood was very happy and uncomplicated. My mother was a single parent which made a special connection between us and we had close ties with my grandmother and my uncle. When I was 13 my mother met my stepfather Guenter, who brought 2 children in the relationship, Bernd and Eva. I developed a very strong relationship with him and I call him my "Dad". We visit them very often and spend Christmas and Eastern holidays with my family. I can't wait to visit them as a family of 3.

I am the proud managing director of an employer branding agency. I'm very fortunate to have a job I love; I help to find the right employees for other companies. It's well known in the agency that I love children and dream of becoming a mother one day. I plan to take maternity leave and be home for your baby so that we can bond together all day.





“She is the love of my life.  
She is crazy about kids  
and kids adore her. She  
will be a great caring and  
loving mother and will  
enjoy a funny and happy  
life with your child. I can’t  
wait to grow a family  
with her!”

*Christoph about Silke*

## SOME FACTS ABOUT SILKE

- ... She decorates the house in a very nice way individually for each season.
- ... She always falls asleep watching TV.
- ... She loves to explore the nature, also in our garden.
- ... She started skiing when she was 2 years old and it is still her favorite hobby.
- ... At each of her birthday parties she organizes a funny children’s play corner for our friend’s children.



**“OUR LIFE TOGETHER IS WONDERFUL,  
IT WOULD BE COMPLETE IF WE COULD  
SHARE IT WITH THE MIRACLE OF A CHILD.”**

We are delighted with the idea of an open adoption and to adopt a child of any race. You will always have a place in our hearts and be part of our family. We promise to love your child unconditionally, to give a wonderful life in a warm and stable family and to guide your child on its way to a happy and content adult life.



## FOR YOUR CHILD

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For both of us it has been a long dream to grow a family. Therefore it is obvious that we will accept this dream with full responsibility and fill it with love.

We both have jobs that give us a secure financial basis and have taken us on exciting paths. Our jobs offer us enough room to care for your child and give our full attention and loving care a child needs.

Austria has a very family-friendly legal system that allows Silke to take parental leave and keep her job. Christoph is totally flexible in his self-employment, so he will devote the time to give your baby a warm welcome in our family.

We know we have the capacity to love any child wholly and unconditionally. We know that adopting your child is the right choice for us, and hope you will agree and choose us as the adoptive parents for your baby.



Silke and baby Marie taking a nap together.

# USA

## HOW WE FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR COUNTRY

Our love for the USA began in New York in 2009. We went there for Christoph's participation in the world-famous New York City Marathon and we will never forget this special event and the breathtaking week in this city. New York has given us a sign that the USA will play a special role in our lives: at Madison Square Garden one of the ceramic tiles in the entrance hall covers our surname. In 2016 we came back, this time not just for a short trip but for 3 months. We spent four weeks in San Francisco, Christoph participated in the Stanford Executive Programm and Silke in an international Programm for Business Ethics and Leadership in Boulder University. And we also travelled through Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada and California.



The perfect view at the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.



Visiting to a bay full of turtles in Hawaii.



# WHY WE LOVE USA

We love the openness and friendliness of the people - no matter where we went, we were always welcomed in a friendly and open manner.

The beautiful and unique nature is awesome – from the Nevada desert to the green forests of Hawaii, each place is unique.

USA is supersize – the mindset is „think bigger, sky is the limit“.

US-Holidays and Traditions. Austria of course has its own traditions too, but you Americans celebrate yours really big. So now we also have Halloween, Thanksgiving and a bit of Santa Clause in Austria.

Your language. We love to speak English and hope to get better every time we do.

The possibility to reach this wonderful country in a few hours. We are close by with a plane flight.

There are so many places in the USA we want to visit with your child.

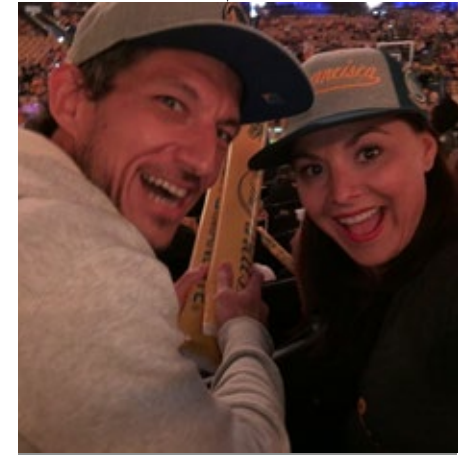
Silke and her colleagues at Boulder University.



Amazing, Christoph is a finisher of the New York City Marathon.



A breathtaking atmosphere at the Golden State Warriors stadium during the spectacular NBA-finals.



Christoph at the graduation ceremony of the Standford Executive Program.



A wonderful evening with friends from Mexico we are looking forward to seeing them again.



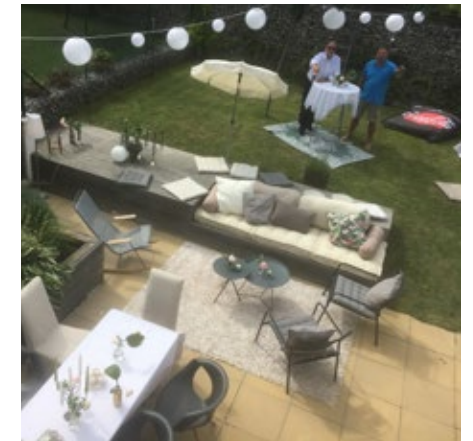
Incredible, we found a tile with our name on it at the Madison Square Garden in New York.

# OUR HOME

Our home is a beautiful semi-detached house, which we have turned into our personal home with a lot of love for details. We love natural and warm materials like wood, natural textiles, and lots of light.

On the middle floor is the living area with a large open kitchen, the family dining table in the center and a comfortable living room with the ability to use our garden as an extended living room when having nice weather. On the first floor there are three spacious bedrooms. On the bottom floor is the entrance and our guest room, where often our parents or siblings sleep when they come for a holiday or celebration event.

From our first day in the house we have planned for a baby nursery. We look forward to decorating the nursery when we are lucky enough to adopt.







WE PROMISE, OUR HOME WILL BE A WARM PLACE FOR YOUR BABY

THE GREAT  
VIEW FROM  
GISSHUEBL TO  
VIENNA - WHERE  
URBANITY MEETS  
THE BEAUTY  
OF NATURE

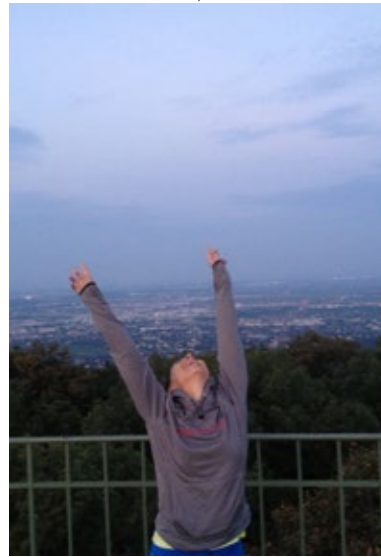




Christoph at the playground near our home with Ben and Marie.



Silke is happy to live in such a great place.



These guys are not just our neighbors but also friends.



## OUR COMMUNITY

We are grateful to live in Austria, a beautiful country in the heart of Europe.

Our capital Vienna is not only known for its historical center and worldwide broadcasted New Year's Concert, but also for being repeatedly voted the most livable city in the world.

The place where we live is called Giesshuebl, only a 20 minute drive from Vienna, a small suburb where urbanity meets the beauty of nature and tranquility.

Vienna and its suburbs are one the fastest growing regions in Europe. Its historically multiethnic population has even become more diverse over the last years. We know many families who adopted children (of color) in the villages around where we live so your child will grow up among other multi-racial families.

Our town is a small family-friendly village and a paradise for children. Many play-grounds, a beautiful forest, lots of sports clubs and well-known schools and day care centers are very close by and we can walk to.

As we both grew up on the countryside and we really appreciate the combination of a rural area and the close international city of Vienna. In Vienna several families also adopted from the USA with the help of Forever Families Through Adoption (FFTA).

## MEET OUR FAMILIES

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## THEY ARE AWESOME

In spring, especially at eastertime, we love to spend time outside with the family. Marie and Ben are looking forward to playing in the garden with your child.



Skiing with the whole family is a lot of fun. In winter we often get together for this. Philipp is looking forward to teaching your baby how to ski.

Our families are an important anchor in our lives. They give us support and confidence in everything that happens. We also have a lot of fun together. Our two families have grown together into one big family, in which close friendships have developed.

We love family events. It is great to gather our families on Christmas, Easter, weddings, baptism and birthdays. We especially love being hosts when we invite our family and friends to come to our house for birthdays, Austrian holidays or just for spending time together.





Christmas holidays with Silke's family at Silke's parents home. Can't wait to find presents under the christmas tree for your baby.



Together with Christoph's family we were guests at Christoph's cousin's wedding at a beautiful castle in Styria.

OUR FAMILIES  
ARE LOOKING  
FOWARD TO  
WELCOME YOUR  
BABY.

## BAERBEL & HEINZ, CHRISTOPH'S PARENTS



Silke and Baerbel at a family event, dressed up in the typical Austrian traditional costume, the „Dirndl“.



Christoph and his Dad Heinz on a trip to Spain for watching one of the biggest European soccer games.

## BRIGITTE & GUENTER, SILKE'S PARENTS



Silke hugging her mother Brigitte at the photo booth at her birthday. The picture is part of a gift for a trip to the mountains.



Günter, Silke's stepfather, congratulating Silke on her birthday.

## OUR PARENTS

We still have a very strong relationship with our parents. They are part of our everyday life, very supportive and friends, especially on our journey to become parents.

They are very excited to become grandparents to your child.

We spend important holidays together, they help us with work in the house and garden, but we have also gone on vacation together for sailing, hiking or skiing to Austria, Italy or Croatia.

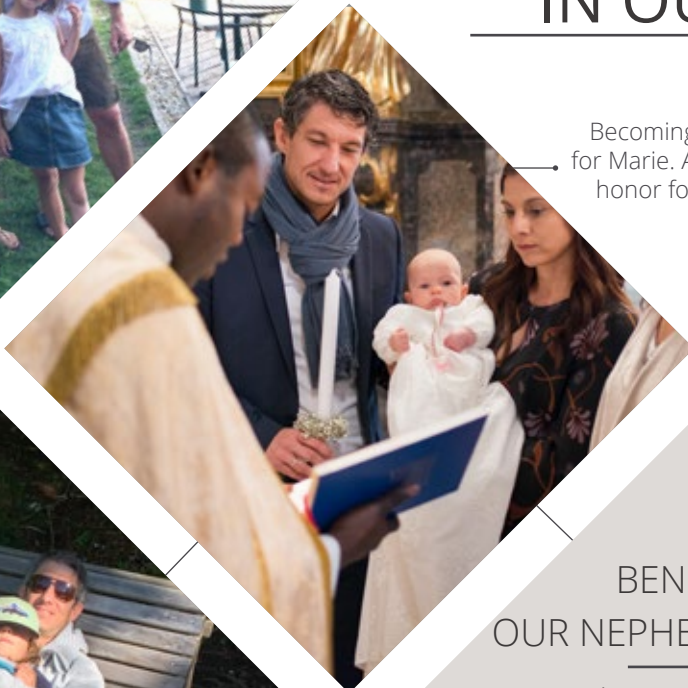
Our parents have also become very close friends themselves and see each other even without us. We know that they will be loving grandparents.



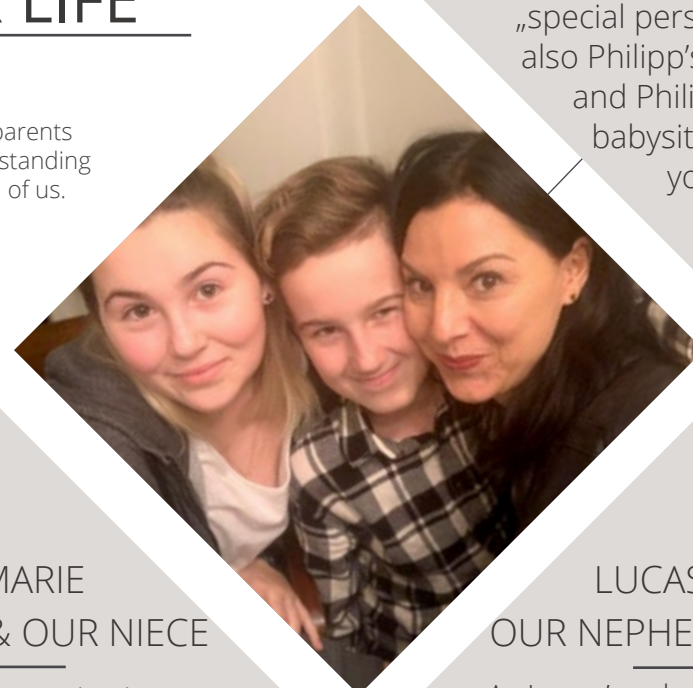
# MEET THE KIDS IN OUR LIFE



Leni & Elisabeth with their parents Kathi and Manfred on our common vacation at the Wolfgangsee in Austria.



Becoming godparents for Marie. An outstanding honor for both of us.



## ANNA & PHILIPP OUR COUSINS

They are all special to us and as the adult cousin Silke is their „special person of trust“. Silke is also Philipp's godmother. Anna and Philipp can't wait to babysit and welcome your baby.



Christoph is chilling with Ben during a hiking break.

## BEN & MARIE OUR NEPHEW & OUR NIECE

We play a very special role in Ben and Marie's life and we are Marie's godparents. They have a special name for us, they call us „Uncle and Aunty Didi“.

## LUCAS & BELLA OUR NEPHEW & OUR NIECE

As Lucas' godparents it is important for us to celebrate the holidays together. Lucas and Bella are Christoph's cousins children, therefore it is always fun sharing stories from their childhood.



Silke and Marie at Ben's first communion festival, dressed up in the Austrian Drindl.



Christmas eve with Bella and Lucas.

## MEET OUR FRIENDS

Our friends are an incredibly important part of our lives. Some of them have been with us for more than half of our lives, from Junior High School or our time at University.

They enrich our lives as motivators, stable pillars and of course as people we are having fun with.

We enjoy common activities and holidays – two circles of friends became one big common group of friends.

Cooking with the girls, Silke's close friends since her time at university.



Silke was maid of honor at Martina's wedding. Martina is Christoph's sister.



Brigitte, Isolde, Svenia and Silke have been sticking together like glue for more than 30 years.



Up into the mountains on a gondola ride in the Alps.



Sailing with his best friends in Croatia is always a very special time for Christoph.



Time on vacation in Croatia. Christoph, his Dad and his best men, Christian and Tommy. Christoph's Dad has taught all of them how to sail and can't wait to teach your child.



SPENDING TIME  
WITH OUR FRIENDS  
MAKES US HAPPY.



Skiing is more fun with friends. They are looking forward to teaching your little one.



Great fun at Wolfgangsee on a motorboat trip. That was special fun for kids and adults.



A nice summer afternoon with family and friends at Christoph's parent's house. The occasion was the birthday of his father.



↓  
Marie and your baby. Silke and Christoph.

## LET MARIE ARRANGE A SMILE FOR YOU

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This picture was drawn by our niece Marie. It shows how she sees herself when we become a family. We deeply pray to adopt a baby and that we will soon be able to hang up this picture in your child's room.





## THANK YOU SO MUCH

for taking your time to read our letter. We hope we have been able to give you a sense of who we are and with how much love all our friends and family would welcome your child. We are honored that you will consider us as adoptive parents for your baby.

As parents we promise to offer your child a loving and carefree childhood. We will give our best and support your child in every way.

If you have any questions, please contact our adoption agency *Forever Families Through Adoption* at 914-939-1180 or toll free at 1-866-922-3678, [www.foreverfamielsthroughadoption.org](http://www.foreverfamielsthroughadoption.org) or [adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org](mailto:adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org).

We would love to hear from you and are happy to answer any question you have.

We wish you all the best and send you a lot of positive energy to find the best decision for you and your child.

With love and utmost respect,

*Christoph & Silke*