

Westways

Smart Quotes

Matthew Morrison

Fans of the former Fox TV series *Glee* know Matthew Morrison as Will Schuester, the high school teacher they wish they'd had. The role garnered Morrison nominations for two Golden Globes and an Emmy. The California native—"I was an Army brat, born in Fort Ord, but the family settled in Orange County when I was in sixth grade"—currently calls Los Angeles home. He recently released an album called *Disney Dreamin' With Matthew Morrison*. On it, he sings the song "You'll Be in My Heart." "That really hit me after I became a father," says Morrison, referring to his 3-year-old son, Revel. *By Beliah Wright*

What's your favorite restaurant?
Fig and Olive. I feel like I'm in Italy. The ambience is beautiful, and I love the organic menu options. The signature crostini, these little toasts with different spreads, are so delicious I could sit there and eat them for days.

Favorite SoCal date? Skydiving is the best first date ever. I mean, can you name a better icebreaker? It doesn't have to be from out of a plane. On our second date, my wife, Renee, and I went to iFly, a simulated air tunnel. It tells you a lot about a person. The air is flowing, your face is bubbling up, and you have these mask lines on your face. You have to laugh at yourself and the person you're with because it's just ridiculous. It's not scary at all, but it's definitely fun.

Where do you go to connect with nature? Upstate New York, where you'll find some of the most bucolic landscapes. Every season has special things for discovering, but especially fall. That's when people from all over the world travel to the Hudson Valley to check out the foliage.

Most memorable road trip you've taken? A cross-country trip with my dad. Being locked in a car with your old man can be brutal or amazing. Luckily, we had a great time. I was moving to Los Angeles from New York, so we were driving an SUV filled with boxes. We took the southern route through the Carolinas, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. We had these long

conversations that were amazing. It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip I'll always remember.

What's on your road trip playlist?
"Hope for Me Yet" by Marc Brussard, "You Gotta Be" by De'Nea, and "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars.

Favorite vacation spot? For a quick getaway, I love Santa Barbara. It's on the ocean and has mountainous landscapes that are great for hiking. And there is the Old Mission Santa Barbara that reflects the city's Spanish history. The food and wine scene is terrific, too.

Next up on your travel bucket list?
New Zealand. It's almost untouched and has landscapes unlike anywhere else. I've heard you need at least two weeks to really take it all in.

What's your biggest travel peeve? Packing is the worst, especially with a child. You want to make sure you're prepared for anything.

Travel item you always pack?
An AirItector. It's a personal air purifier that covers up to 800 square feet, so we use it on the plane and in hotels and Airbnbs.

Favorite snack while traveling?
We fill a big snack bag with nuts, fruits, and chia seed juices. Essential for me is a blueberry-flavored Reiter.

What do I consider Beautiful?
My family. Just seeing their faces experience the world is priceless.



COURTESY MATTHEW MORRISON

What's your favorite restaurant?
Fig and Olive. I feel like I'm in Italy. The ambience is beautiful, and I love the organic menu options. The signature crostini, these little toasts with different spreads, are so delicious I could sit there and eat them for days.