

# RIGHT ON THE MONEY

*When she's not reporting from the New York Stock Exchange, CNBC anchor Maria Bartiromo is constantly travelling. DESIREE KOH catches up with her before the trading bell goes off again.*

**M**aria Bartiromo has entered the room. You know this because even before you see her, her presence fills it; that sense that someone is going to grab a situation by the lapels and find out everything there is to know. She is, after all, one of the world's top business reporters.

Bartiromo, the host of CNBC's Closing Bell with Maria Bartiromo and managing editor of the Wall Street Journal Report with Maria Bartiromo, enthuses, "I love business and business is global; I have a curiosity about the rest of the world." This curiosity has led to, among others, face-to-face interviews with the likes of US President Barack Obama and Google's ex-CEO Eric Schmidt, along with numerous industry accolades.

"I talk to people," says Bartiromo. "I want to find out what the highlights are; what's generating interest." This often

translates into a schedule like the one that unfurled last October and November: eight cities in three continents, starting in Italy, followed by five US cities before landing in Singapore to host CNBC's Asia Business Leaders Awards, and then to London.

"I love what I do," Bartiromo reflects. But it's important to get the right balance - to have enough sleep, exercise, eat right, and when quiet, alone or family time is available, "take as much as you can". On a recent 18-hour flight, she got up several times to do planks and downward dogs - yoga is her favourite workout - before a flight steward stopped her.

Yet, no matter where she is, Bartiromo finds it hard to switch from journalist to tourist. "In any part of the world, you can get a sense of the economy by being on the ground, by meeting people, by getting the sentiment of people and actually seeing commerce take place," she says.

She loves being in Asia. "Asia, particularly China and South-east Asia, has really been the engine of growth for the world," she says. This year, Bartiromo also wants to explore Africa, where a significant amount of global investment is shifting to.

Of her constant travelling, she says, "I love it because each of these trips and moments with different people from different parts of the world allow me to learn and educate myself on things I otherwise would not be able to. I have no interest in slowing that down." ■

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