

DREAM BELIEVER

KATY Perry and Russell Brand (or should that be Mr and Mrs Brand?) are not the only celebrities that share their abode in sunny California.

There are also their three cats, who mistress Perry gives plenty of airtime in interviews and on Twitter.

"I'm in Los Angeles and my little kitty is sleeping right next to my lap," she says, in an interview just days before her departure to India to wed British comedian Russell Brand.

"I am so obsessed. I am definitely like the cat lady you'll see in 50 years," she admits. And we believe her — her new perfume brand (for which she poses in a sexy catsuit) is even called Purr.

Thankfully Russell is a cat person too. It's his old moggy Morrissey (named after the lead singer of seminal English band The Smiths) who is the oldest of the bunch, followed by the adorably named Kitty Purry, and now the latest addition to their growing family, Krusty the kitten, who the proud parents brought home earlier this year.

"It's a mash-up of Katy and Rusty. I know that's horrible," admits one-half of the so-in-love pair.

Apparently dad Russell loves playing football with his littlest one.

"We've taught her how to play fetch. I'm not joking. And she also knows how to give kisses on demand. She's kind of a magical cat."

"She has little soccer balls. My boyfriend's like, 'Oh my God, my cat plays football. It's the best cat ever. It's a magic cat!' And then she has this little mouse. I think there are some extra incentives embedded deep into the mouse and the football. There's some drugs."

"You know what's funny? They're all different ages and come from different places, like Morrissey is an English cat, he's been brought over from England, he's the eldest. So he's very particular and he doesn't like to be bothered and he's the only one who's allowed to go outside."

"Kitty Purry is a sweetheart and Krusty is a terror, so three of them live in the house now, and we have cat drugs that we put into the wall, like air freshener. So basically they're all jacked up on drugs like it's the 1960s and free love and all."

But Katy Perry isn't on the phone to talk about her cats.

The Californian pop star has a very important announcement to make.

"Wait... it's not that she and Russell finally tied the knot, though as you read this they are probably partying hard in India right now."

It's that she's coming to Australia. That's right, the brunette-pink-or-sometimes-even-blue-haired bomb-

Katy Perry has an important announcement to make, and it's not about that wedding. She spoke to **Sally Browne**



Wedding frenzy: Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, India, where Katy Perry and Russell Brand (right) got engaged



shell is bringing her California Dreams tour to Australia and it's set to be bigger, better, hotter, tastier and, er, smelier than ever.

Hang on, what was that last one?

"You read correctly. Perry wants her show to be a feast for all the senses."

"What I'm trying to do is not just have the traditional, 'OK, you are the viewer. I am the performer, watch me, kind of thing," she says excitedly.

"I want it to be interactive and really invigorate the senses. For instance, I want to walk into the room and I want it to really be smelling like cotton candy. I want your sight to be stimulated, sound, taste, touch. You're going to have to basically take a nap after the show because you'll be exhausted from all of your senses being interactive."

Well, scented air freshener worked on the kitties.

When Pink scales silken threads, Lady Gaga gorges on a bloody heart and Britney puts on a circus show (although she doesn't bother to sing), keeping up with your peers can be a challenge.

Modern audiences, dazzled by the recent run of arena spectacular events, expect a bigger and better show.

Perry hopes to make it almost like a Broadway production, possibly even detailing how she realised her teenage dream to become a pop star, from the child who made a vision board of her dreams in school, to the gospel singing pastor's daughter, to the cheekily risqué girl-kissing pop star, to the fully fledged headline-creating young woman that she is today.

We wonder if her story will include the latest in her adventures — meeting her prince charming Russell Brand.

Although we were under strict instructions not to ask about Russell or her wedding, it's clear the dedicated star was in super busy planning mode.

"With all the different goals we have to get to there's a lot of activity," she hinted, "so there's never a dull moment in the household."

Just this week the pair flew off to India to begin the week-long celebrations and finally seal the deal of a love affair that began at the MTV Awards in 2009.

For the past month, rumours about the internet — that the couple were holding out on sleeping together before the big day, that they had already tied the knot in secret.

At last count 85 guests were invited to the wedding, held at a fancy resort south of Jaipur, including Perry's best pal Rihanna, with whom she recently celebrated her bachelorette party in Las Vegas, and Brand's best tell-it-like-it-is mate Noel Gallagher of Oasis and British comedian Jonathan Ross.

It was at Jaipur that Brand asked the girl who he credits for turning his life around to marry him. And now the poppy celebrity prince and princess will finally be crowned king and queen.

The pair then may honeymoon in Mauritius (where Russell reportedly recently took his mum on holiday) and the Maldives.

There will be plenty of time, then, to soak up wedded bliss before Perry starts the hard yards of preparing for

her tour, which begins in Europe in March, reaching Australia in May.

"I'm really excited to go to Australia and to be able to bring the California Dreams tour," she says. While Perry will upscale the production from her last tour, she stresses that music is the heart of the show.

"We're going to bring dancers out. And we have a lot more of a real show. I think shows have turned into productions now. And of course I want it to be all about the music at the end of the day, that has to be the spine and the soul and the heart, but there's nothing wrong with the bells and whistles if you know that you've got a spine."

She says she'll be bringing more than double the working team out with her, which this time could include up to 50 people.

"The entourage is a working entourage, there's definitely not a lot of excess. I'm not trying to — and I don't mean this in any negative way — trying to MC Hammer my money away."

Going out with the world's mouthiest comedian, Perry has a good sense of humour. And a sense of humour is part of a necessary arsenal for someone in the public eye.

Perry recently had to rely on a humorous comeback when she was controversially banned from children's show *Sesame Street*, after the outfit she had worn in her segment with furry favourite Elmo was deemed too skimpy for a kids' show.

Perry's response was to poke fun at the whole affair by appearing on US comedy show *Saturday Night Live*

wearing a cleavage-enhancing top featuring Elmo's face. The reaction to the *Sesame Street* video, which can be seen online, has been mixed, with some saying she should have covered up and others saying it was essentially harmless.

Perry is well aware that as a role model for kids and an artist who wants to express herself, she has a fine line to walk. It's easier for comedians, she says. Saying what they think is part of their job description.

"The thing about comedians is that that's their job to say whatever it is that they say," she says. "Some people say it in different ways, with different nuances but I feel that they're so lucky because they don't have such a filter, not that I have a filter, but they get to be so off the wall. Everybody knows at the end of the day it's a joke."

While her lines on *Saturday Night Live* are limited (her chest has a bigger role), it's clear the singer has comedy potential and she would like to do more acting.

"I got really involved with the whole SNL experience because I want to go back and host it," she says. "I've said in the past, if they ever make a *Superbad II*, please put me in it. Or like a *Hangover* female version, I'll just do it. Because I love comedy, of course."

"My favourite female comedian is a woman named Kristen Wig. She's hilarious and I totally like made secret stalker friends with her. She actually ended up sending me a lock of her hair and signing a note to go along with it because I tweeted about it. And I was so just like, 'Oh my goodness, she's hilarious!'"

"I love dark humour, like Mitch Hedberg when he was alive, was one of my favourites and I love Sarah Silverman's tweets, although when I follow Sarah Silverman's tweets I'm like, 'Oh my God, you're going to get killed for saying that!'"

While chatting to Ms Perry is fun, time with a superstar is short and the operator jumps on the line to tell us our time is running out.

"Hello, operator," the ever-friendly star says.

While she can't talk about the wedding, can she give us one more hint about her tour before we go?

"I'll tell her!" Perry shouts. "I think it's going to be sensory overload and I think that people will go home fully appétised."

You have been warned.

Katy Perry performs at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre on May 5. Tickets on sale 9am, Thursday, November 4, through Ticketek. Pre-sale tickets available from 2pm, Monday, November 1. Ticketek: 132 849, ticketek.com.au.



You're going to have to take a nap after the show because you'll be exhausted from all of your senses being interactive