

# IT'S ALL RELATIVE

Whether she is filming 'Christina Milian, Turned Up' with her mother and sisters, or hanging out with her 5-year-old daughter, Violet—family comes first for this singer-turned-momprenuer.

By Patty Adams Martinez

**On being a single mom while juggling a music and television career:**

It's about making the time I spend with Violet count. I'll take her to business meetings and interviews. Most people don't bring their kids to work with them, but I'm, like... "I make my own rules!"

**On the role of family and her parenting style:**

I try to give Violet as much family time as possible, because it's her blood, and that's where we come from. That closeness has helped develop her amazing confidence. She's Cuban and African American, and I want her to understand her mixed race and be proud of it.

**On which Cuban customs she is passing down to her daughter:**

She loves Cuban music, and salsa dancing. She can wiggle those little hips! But food is probably the biggest thing that brings out our Cuban heritage. We sit down and have dinners together as a family. No TV! Cubans love to talk, and we're great storytellers.

**On her cooking style at home:**

My mom kills it in the kitchen, but my sisters and I all cook Cuban food too. My mom raised us knowing that someday, when you're with your man and you're able to make some bomb Cuban dishes – that would be our show-off piece. I make good picadillo with rice, black beans and tostones.

**On a major life lesson she's teaching her daughter:**

To not be fearful. Guilt comes into play when you're Latino. I grew up with a lot of that. At some point, you have to break the chains and not spend your life making decisions based on not wanting to disappoint your family.

**On how she balances her own dating life as a mom:**

Violet has a very involved dad [The-Dream], so she doesn't need anyone to replace him. But she is aware of the person I'm with now {Milian is reportedly seeing Lil Wayne}. He told Violet's dad that he's not only dating me, but that my daughter is part of the package. That proved to me that the relationship was worth my while.

Check out... *Christina Milan Turned Up*.

Also look for Christina in *Parents Latina* magazine now available.

## Christina Milian



**On how she encourages her daughter to appreciate her cultural background:**

I've taught her to proud of her curls. I compliment her natural hair and show her the beauty in it. So when she sees the process with the big blond braid in *Frozen*, I make sure she also sees [Quvenzhané Wallis's] fro in *Annie*. I've also gotten her cornrows, which is part of her culture.