



BELLA WINE CEO TO SHARE AWARD-WINNING BUSINESS, MARITAL TIPS

BY JACKIE NALUBWAMA

There is no doubt that wine is a very significant part of celebration. If anyone is in doubt, he or she should refer to Jesus' first miracle — turning water into wine — at a wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12). In fact, love has been paired with wine, especially at weddings, with some speeches equating the longevity of a marriage to sweet old wine.

At the upcoming Bride and Groom Expo in June, slated to take place from June 26 to 28, at UMA Showgrounds, among the exhibitors is Bella Wine, who will not only be an exhibitor, but a sponsor as well. Bella Wine, a renowned Ugandan winery founded by Prudence Ukkonika, has made a mark on the international scene. The winery has won numerous accolades, including major recognition at the Big Wine Awards 2024 in Italy, the People's Choice Quality Awards and awards from the Uganda Manufacturers Association and 1st Africa Responsible Business Award (2015), among others.

"Wine is a symbol of love," Ukkonika says, adding, "We advise people to take simple drinks, like

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wine, at weddings so that they don't do anything unbecoming when they are intoxicated."

Ukkonika explains that Bella Wine is especially good for weddings because it helps digestion.

"Bella Wine is good for digestion and merry-making at weddings, where a lot of food is served. People enjoy the food and sip our wine," she says.

Simmy Nana Nsimbe, who served Bella Wine at her introduction ceremony in 2024, testifies to its great taste. "I served two Bella wine bottles per table for my guests, together with other drinks, but the wine bottles were emptied first. My in-laws requested we pack for them some more, and we gave them all the nine that had remained in the store."

In keeping with the expo

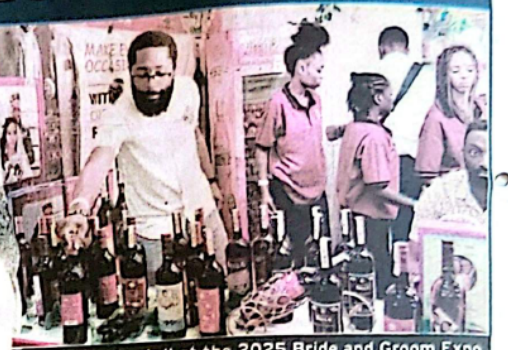
theme, *I do: A Journey of Love, Family and Home*, Ukkonika says Bella Wine will also share nuggets with expo attendees on having a lasting marriage.

"I, the proprietor, will advise them on how to keep a good marriage because I have been married for 45 years. They will not just buy wine for their wedding; I will give them important business tips too," says Ukkonika.

Fiona Tamale, Vision Group's



Prudence Ukkonika, CEO Bella Wine



Bella Wine's stall at the 2025 Bride and Groom Expo

events manager, echoes Ukkonika's sentiments.

"Love doesn't end at 'I do'—that's where the real journey begins.

This expo is designed to support couples every step of the way, helping them build strong foundations for lasting relationships and thriving homes," Tamale says.

At only sh10,000 as the entrance fee, the Bride and Groom Expo is the place to shop for a wedding or anniversary.

Get expert advice on marriage, finance and housing at the Expo.