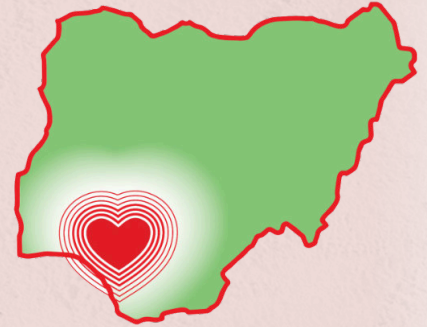


FEB 2024

With Love, from Edo

Koyo!! [Benin] Obokhian!! [Esan] Abee!! [Afemai] Hello [English]



*Valentine's Day
Edition*



PUBLISHER'S SCRIPT



May I use this opportunity to welcome all our fabulous readers of the "With Love from Edo" Digest back after a most eventful 2023.

The countdown to the year end was as fascinating as it was thrilling. The unforgettable ESTA mega concert with renowned artists like Flavour, Patoranking, MC Edo Pikin etc was just the first of its kind. The Victor Uwaifo Hub was packed with both youths and older folks who let their hair down into the wee hours of the morning.

But this year, we have great news for you. 2024 will be the year of super accomplishments. We will make tourism, hospitality and culture the centerpiece of our activities, aimed at attracting not only domestic and diaspora visitors but also to convince tourists to make first and repeat trips to the cultural district. The five-star Radisson Blu Hotel will be completed and opened in the third quarter of the year.

We also want to congratulate our lucky winners of the ESTA Mega Concert raffle draw as they embark on their trips to the fascinating 2A's (Abidjan & Accra). The third prize winner will have the opportunity to enjoy 3 nights at our very own Protea Hotel, Select Emotan, starting on Valentine's Day. Please remember that the Government of Ivory Coast just invested \$1bn on their sporting ecosystem in preparation for AFCON.

In the words of Tasmin Cocks, editor of Business Traveller magazine, "that the secret of living longer is to pack your days with as many new and challenging experiences as you can".

This year, we are not only going to leverage our domestic and regional attractions, but we will simultaneously showcase the areas of similarity, affinity and diversity. In this edition, we seek to draw parallels between love in ancient times in Edo and the modern-day interpretation of love by the Gen Zs. We also celebrate the Super

Eagles of Nigeria for entering the finals of AFCON for the first time since 2013. Special recognition goes to Stanley Nwabali and one of our own, Victor Osimhen, for their remarkable contributions in getting the Nigerian team to the finals. In 2023, we showcased Bendel Insurance and the Samuel Ogiemudia Stadium in Benin City.



Once again, I want to welcome you back to a year filled with promise. Robert Louis Stevenson once said, it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive. So let's go.

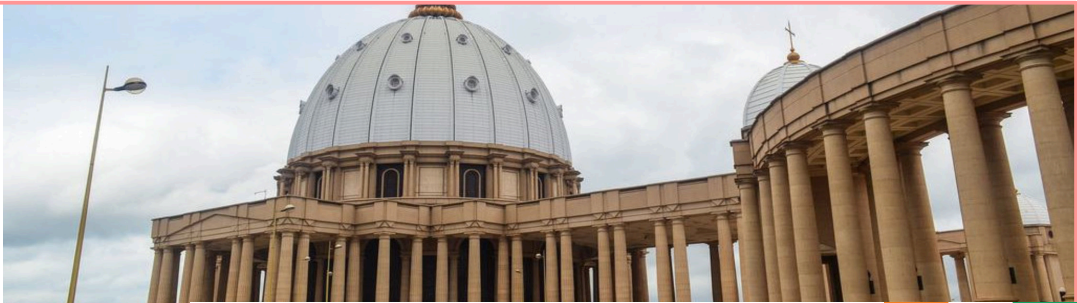
With love, **OBEHI**





Meet the Winners

1



MS. EZOMO SHUNTELL

An all expense paid trip to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



2



MR. SEGUN THOMPSON ODUNUSI

An all expense paid trip to Accra, Ghana



3



MR. CHUKWUEMEKA MICHAEL

A 3-night all expense paid vacation in Protea Hotel Benin City, Select Emotan



OF THE 2023 ESTA MEGA CONCERT RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS



A Tale of Love!

In the ancient Benin Kingdom, Queen Idia, a beacon of strength and wisdom, continues to inspire generations with her unparalleled dedication to her people. Her legacy stands as a testament to the transformative power of leadership, echoing through time as a reminder of courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment.

From her earliest years, Idia exhibited an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a profound empathy for the struggles of her people. She did not confine herself to the opulence of the palace; instead, she immersed herself in the bustling streets, intimately familiarizing herself with the challenges faced by her people.

As she matured, Idia's bond with Oba Ozolua, the revered ruler of the Benin Kingdom, grew stronger. Together, they toiled ceaselessly to safeguard their homeland, confronting adversities with unity and determination.

Idia's love for the Benin kingdom illuminated most brilliantly amidst conflict. When threats loomed large, she emerged as a stalwart beacon of courage, leading her people into battle armed not just with swords, but with wisdom and compassion.

Yet, Queen Idia's devotion extended far beyond the battlefield. She committed herself fervently to the welfare of her people, implementing policies aimed at fostering prosperity and harmony throughout the kingdom. Under her stewardship, the Benin Kingdom flourished as a bastion of culture and enlightenment.

But perhaps Idia's most profound expression of love was her unwavering support for the Oba, her partner in both governance and life. Together, they ruled with sagacity and compassion, their union serving as the bedrock upon which the kingdom thrived.

And so, the legacy of Queen Idia endures, a timeless testament to the potency of love for one's state. In her valour, sagacity, and boundless empathy, she epitomized the essence of a true servant-leader, forever enshrined in the hearts of those who hold dear the memory of the Benin Kingdom.

Activate

Love

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Edo Has Everything You Desire

Edo embodies a myriad of desires, offering all that one could seek. In the heart of Benin City, a beacon of luxury and hospitality is on the verge of completion—Radisson Hotel.

The hotel, which will be the first Radisson-branded hotel outside Abuja and Lagos, is set to redefine the landscape of hospitality in Edo state and Nigeria.

Radisson is a global hotel chain with a presence in 95 countries worldwide. The brand is well known for its premium-style collection of luxury, offering quality services, dining, wellness, and unique interiors. Unsurprisingly, it boasts several 5-star rated hotels in top tourism countries like Turkey.

For Benin, the Radisson Hotel represents more than just a new building, it showcases Edo's readiness and ability to welcome visitors from all over the world and offer them authentic experiences. Notably, Benin boasts a vibrant tourism scene, from the historic sites of the MOAT, Arhuanran to the Benin Golf Course and the pulsating nightlife of Club Joker. Establishments like Protea, Golden Tulip and the soon-to-come Radisson Hotel add to the array of first-class treatment in accommodation, fine dining and the exquisite social hub of

adventure and luxury Edo state has to offer.

Moreso as the world recovers from the 2019 pandemic that brought tourism and the hospitality sector operations to a screeching halt, Edo state is poised to showcase to the world its rich cultural heritage. Festivals like the Igue Festival, Aba Drum Festival, and Emotan Festival with origins dating back to the 14th century are one of the richest cultural experiences in the region. While venues like Reign Arcade, Glitch Arcade, and Paintball offer adrenaline-pumping fun for visitors of all ages. When it comes to dining, the options are endless, from the cozy ambience of D28 Cafe & Grills to the exotic flavors of Ruch Snails and Ej Cuisine.

As the Radisson Blu Hotel nears completion, Benin City looks to the future with optimism and excitement. This is only the beginning of a new chapter in the city's history, one filled with opportunities. As with each passing day, Edo State edges closer to its destiny as a true megacity, where the past and the present converge in a vibrant scenery of culture and commerce.





AERO		
Routes	Frequency	Time
Lagos-Benin	Thurs	1:35pm
	Sun	10:30am
Benin-Lagos	Thurs	3:00pm
	Sun	11:55am
Abuja - Benin	Tue	11:50am
	Thurs	3:25pm
Benin - Abuja	Tue	4:55pm
	Sun	1:20pm

ARIK		
Routes	Frequency	Time
Lagos-Benin	Tue, Thurs, Sat, Sun	7:00am
Benin-Lagos	Tue, Thurs, Sat, Sun	8:20am

AIR PEACE		
Routes	Frequency	Time
Lagos-Benin	Daily	12:00pm
Benin-Lagos	Daily	4:50pm
Abuja - Benin	Daily	3:15pm
Benin - Abuja	Daily	1:30pm

GREENAFRICA		
Routes	Frequency	Time
Lagos-Benin	Daily	6:50am
		4:20pm
Benin-Lagos	Daily	2:45pm
		5:40pm
Abuja - Benin	Daily	1:10pm
Benin - Abuja	Daily	8:15am

All Flights Lead to Edo

*770#

Start now. Dial *770#











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WHAT WAS THE FLAG OF JAPAN DURING THE EDO PERIOD?

The Rising Sun Flag is a Japanese flag that consists of a red disc and sixteen red rays emanating from the disc. Like the Japanese national flag, the Rising Sun Flag symbolizes the sun. The flag was originally used by feudal warlords in Japan during the Edo period (1603–1868 CE).

The Edo Period of Japan began when 'Tokugawa Iyasu' became an elite military commander or 'shogun' in 1603 after a victory at the Sekigahara in 1600, and brought 200 years of stability, peace and prosperity to Japan.

The name 'Iyasu' is a stunning link to the title 'IYASE', given to top Benin Empire military commanders during the same period until date.

As early as 1889, an association to preserve Edo culture had been established in Tokyo. It claims that the Tokugawa period i.e. Edo period, was "the period in which Japanese civilization achieved its greatest progress and development".

Credit: Re-thinking Jōmon and Ainu in Japanese History by Mark J. Hudson





Thinking of where to spend Valentine's Day?

THE GOURMET EXPERIENCE

a night in Paris

WITH CHEF KOYE



NEW LOCATION ALERT



RESERVATION **COUPLE 150K**
SINGLE 80K

Host
► Boffin, Voke

Red carpet: **6:30pm** - First course: **8:00pm**

📍 UYI GRAND MARQUEE AIDEYAN CRESCENT, OFF ADESUWA ROAD



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📱 @the_gourmet_experience

Love



The purest force in the world.

Sometimes thicker than blood:

Remember Edward VIII, King of Great Britain?

He abdicated the throne to marry a woman he loved.

Love knows no bounds, if pure and true.

A mild form of madness will come over you.

Love is blind but clearly it sees,

It brings the brave and vulnerable sometimes to their knees.

Love offers moments of joy, laced with a measure of fear.

Betrayal, the worst action from someone whom you hold dear.

A couple of mistakes, one or two lies,

Love suffers a while, if unhealed, then it dies.

Love nurtures potential,

However great or small.

Be it parents or siblings or partners in life,

Where one believes, the other fears no fall.

Respect is key for it not to degenerate.

For there's a very thin line between love and hate.

Selflessness, consideration and resisting temptation,

Without a doubt,

are a few symptoms of what it's all about.

In the end, love makes the world go round.

Endeavor to hold on to *the one* you've found.

After all is said and done,

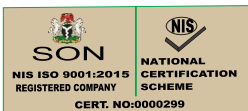
If you never loved, you were never born.

With love, from **OBEHI**©

A Poem

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For over 3 decades, we have let our brands do the talking as we have continually delivered first choice quality drinks, all leaders in their various categories, for your utmost satisfaction.



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...first choice quality drinks

What's Love got to do with it? Everything!

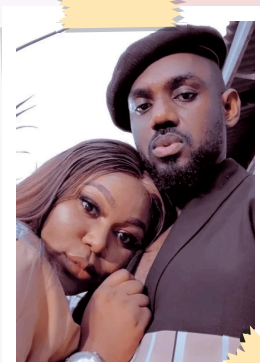
Adesua Etomi (Nollywood Actress) and Bankole Wellington (Nollywood Actor, Singer, Entrepreneur & Politician)



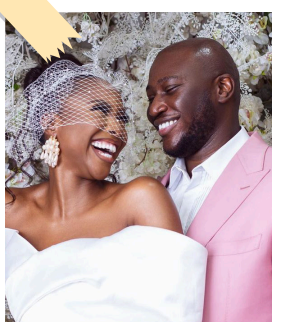
Toyin Abraham (Nollywood Actress) and Kolawole Ajeyemi (Nollywood Actor/ Movie director)



Ruth Kadiri (Nollywood Actress) and Mr Ezerika



Matilda Obaseki (Nollywood Actress) and Arnold Mozia



Ini Dima-Okojie (Nollywood Actress) and Abasi Ene-Obong (CEO, 54gene)



Helen Paul (Comedian, Singer, and Nollywood Actress) and Femi Bamisile (Legal Practitioner)



Thelma Okoduwa (Nollywood Actress) and Onya Ojiji

Alex Usifo (Nollywood Actor) and Princess Usifo

THE SUPER EAGLES SOAR AT AFCON!



At the gruelling initial AFCON qualification stage, Nigeria faced formidable opponents - Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome, and Mauritius. Yet, through unwavering determination and skillful play, the Super Eagles emerged victorious, finishing atop the table with an impressive 15 points, leaving their rivals trailing behind by a margin of 2 points.

AFCON is a battleground, where talented African players scattered across European clubs with reputable names fiercely compete, displaying speed, and strength. The tournament has indeed earned its place among the key cups African players can add to their achievements.

After qualifying, Nigeria advanced to the group stage, where they clashed with Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Guinea Bissau once more. Each match was a testament to the Super Eagles' prowess on the field, leaving spectators awestruck by their unmatched talent and teamwork. While the Black Stars of Ghana, Algeria, the Pharaohs of Egypt, the Carthage Eagles of Tunisia, Morocco, and the defending champions Senegal were eliminated in the round of 16 from the AFCON Cup, Nigeria advanced, yet again.

Emerging victorious against Cameroon's Indomitable Lions and Angola in the Round of 16 and quarterfinals Nigeria secured a spot in the tournament's semi-finals. As anticipation mounted for the upcoming fixture against the formidable Bafana Bafana of South Africa, Nigerians stood united in unwavering support for their beloved team. From Kano's bustling markets to Port Harcourt's streets, the enthusiasm for football was palpable, with every Nigerian eagerly awaiting the next chapter in the Super Eagles' journey towards glory.

The day finally came, the Super Eagles faced Bafana Bafana in Ivory Coast, and families gathered around television screens in living rooms adorned with green and white, waiting with bated breath for the outcome of the exhilarating play. Then it was a goal, a draw, a goal again, and a penalty shoot-out. Many Nigerians stood with their fingers crossed at the edge of their hot seats. Eventually, it all broke loose in excitement and joy. A thunderous roar from the crowd reverberated through the stadium, echoing the collective pride of a nation united behind their heroes on the pitch. The Super Eagles had done it. Nigeria is in the finals. We won!

The rough streets of Twitter Nigeria took its good plight, the warriors with twiddling thumbs, resorted to playful banter, memes and pictures, and replaced the torment of the "generator republic" with Ourpiano sounds. On tarred streets, the joy was even more palpable. Nigerians were alive with celebration, echoing the cheerful chants of football fans as they danced in jubilation. The Super Eagles had given Nigerians a glimmer of hope to cling to in trying times. The Super Eagles are more than a football team to Nigerians; they symbolize hope, resilience, and an unbreakable spirit. As they prepared to face their next formidable opponent in the finals of the AFCON Cup, the nation stands poised and optimistic, ready to cheer their beloved team to victory once more.



Proudly
Edo



AFRICA CUP
OF NATIONS
CÔTE D'IVOIRE 23

Victor Osimhen & Stanley Nwabali



WON THE



OF THE MANY
NIGERIANS

ENTERTAINMENT

1 What does “Ago fie” mean in Benin ?

2 Which popular Nigerian footballer won the 2023 African Footballer of the Year Award ?

Hint: He hails from Edo State

3 What is the name of the only airport in Edo state ?

Answers are in the word puzzle

WORD PUZZLE

FROM THIS EDITION

N	B	H	Y	M	V	B	T	P	F	F	I	L
U	O	Z	M	I	A	H	B	W	O	P	F	T
N	J	I	C	I	G	R	K	G	O	A	G	R
P	I	T	T	I	Z	J	R	C	T	I	J	O
X	O	N	L	A	J	J	Z	I	B	B	K	P
R	P	F	E	U	U	T	G	B	A	N	Q	R
T	B	O	V	B	Y	T	O	S	L	G	R	I
J	O	Y	V	J	T	B	A	C	L	R	E	A
N	E	H	M	I	S	O	U	F	E	A	E	Z
P	T	R	A	V	E	L	U	V	N	K	G	D
A	Y	O	X	X	T	L	O	R	R	I	O	R
S	G	K	J	U	H	L	S	O	I	B	U	U
S	C	E	R	O	L	K	L	O	F	S	I	N
I	P	E	V	G	Q	K	L	F	G	U	M	W
O	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	M	K	T
N	N	U	R	Z	N	L	P	E	D	Y	K	D

INFATUATION
MY
LOVE
JOY
MARRIAGE
FOOTBALL

VICTOR
OSIMHEN
BENIN
AIRPORT
FLIGHT
TRAVEL

TOURISM
PASSION
CULTURE
FOLKLORE
TRADITION
RED

EVENTS

Orimiyan

February

Masquerade festival

Crughaze

March

Title-taking

Owa Festival

March

To Ward off evil from the Land



LINGO

Benin ▾



English ▾

Ih rhuemwen we



I love you



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