



GOOD MIGRATIONS

Arik Air passengers on journeys of a lifetime

This issue *Tiwa Savage*

Nigerian singer-songwriter Tiwa Savage has skyrocketed from the UK X Factor stage in 2006 to collaborating and performing with Grammy Award winners Fantasia Barrino, Mary J. Blige, Chaka Khan, and The Black Eyed Peas. She's signed to SONY/ATV and Mavin Records and recently released a single, Ife Wa Gbona featuring Leo Wonder. It's been a rollercoaster journey but nothing compared to moving back to Nigeria from the United States.

Returning to Nigeria from the US has been the most significant journey of my career so far. I had to go around the world and back again to realise that Nigeria is the place I'm supposed to be musically. You have to appreciate where you come from to know where you are going. This homecoming has been monumental.

I have several favourite places in Nigeria, especially Bonny Island. A lot of people don't know

about it. You have to travel there by road, plane and on water but once you are there, it's lovely and clean. The roads are well maintained and it seems like a different place; a small secret island that no one knows about.

A lot of young Nigerian artists want to leave the country in search of better careers. It's tough out there but when you have the backing of your people,

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whatever you do, including your music, will transcend. Look at the likes of D'banj, and Wizzkid. They are being nominated for awards like the MOBOs, and the Grammys will probably come rolling in. What you need to do in whatever field you are in is master it at home and international markets will come

knocking rather than going elsewhere and being a small fish in a huge pond. The international market will see that there is something going on in Africa that needs to be tapped into. Why go out there looking for them when they will eventually come looking for you? ➤

Belinda Otas

