

MILLENNIAL

# WOMAN

MAGAZINE



**AMANDA  
DAMBUZA**

VALUES  
BEHIND  
**VEUVE**  
**CLICQUOT'S**  
BOLD  
WOMAN AWARD

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# AMANDA DAMBUZA

## VALUES BEHIND VEUVE CLICQUOT'S BOLD WOMAN AWARD

In a world where leadership is being reimagined and the rules of influence are constantly evolving, Amanda Dambuza stands as a beacon of bold, purposeful transformation. As the Founder and CEO of Uyandiswa Group, Amanda has not only built a powerful enterprise from the ground up, but she's also reshaped the very idea of what it means to lead as a woman in Africa's complex and competitive business landscape.

In this exclusive Millennial Woman Magazine feature, Amanda delves into the ethos behind the Veuve Clicquot Bold Woman Award and what it truly means to embody fearless leadership in 2025. With unshakable authenticity and vision, she shares her personal definition of power, the legacy she's building for future generations, and why uplifting diverse women isn't just her mission, but her movement.

Through her insights as a judge, entrepreneur, and unapologetic changemaker, Amanda challenges traditional molds and champions a bold new narrative, one where leadership is inclusive, daring, emotionally intelligent, and above all, impactful. This is more than a story about success; it's a masterclass in leading from the front and doing it on your own terms.

# AMANDA DAMBUZA

## VALUES BEHIND VEUVE CLICQUOT'S BOLD WOMAN AWARD

### **Q) What does it mean to be a bold woman leader in 2025?**

A) In 2025, being a bold woman leader means shattering ceilings with unapologetic courage and rewriting the rules of power with empathy and vision. It means standing firm in your truth while lifting others, embracing vulnerability as strength, and turning systemic barriers into stepping stones for progress. A bold woman leader doesn't just navigate change, she drives it, blending fierce resilience with compassionate innovation to build a future where equity isn't an aspiration but a reality. She thrives in the face of resistance, owns her voice without dilution, and leads not from ego, but from a deep commitment to leaving the world more just, inclusive, and empowered than she found it. This is leadership that doesn't ask for permission, it transforms the game entirely.

### **Q) As a seasoned leader, how have you personally redefined power and influence?**

A) As a seasoned leader, I have redefined power and influence by shifting the paradigm from control to connection, from authority to authenticity. Power is no longer about dominance but about impact, the kind that uplifts, transforms, and endures. I have wielded influence not through title or intimidation, but by listening deeply, acting with integrity, and creating spaces where others find their own strength. My leadership is a testament to the idea that true power lies in lifting others while staying unshaken in purpose, that influence grows not from being the loudest in the room, but from being the one who amplifies the voices that matter. This is leadership that leaves a legacy, not of personal glory, but of collective empowerment. I don't just lead; I ignite change that lasts.

### **Q) As a judge for the Bold Woman Award by Veuve Clicquot, what qualities are you specifically looking for in this year's finalists?**

A) As a judge for this year's Veuve Clicquot Bold Woman Award, I am seeking extraordinary women who embody fearless leadership, relentless innovation, and a transformative impact on their industries and communities. This year's finalists must demonstrate courage in challenging norms, a visionary approach to driving change, and an unwavering commitment to empowering others. I am looking for leaders who blend resilience with grace, whose boldness is matched by their integrity, and whose influence creates lasting legacies, just like Madame Clicquot herself. The ideal finalist and ultimately the winner, doesn't just break barriers; she redefines what's possible for future generations of women.

### **Q) How does this award reflect the broader shift in what society values in female leadership today?**

A) The Veuve Clicquot Bold Woman Award reflects a profound societal shift in how female leadership is valued, no longer confined to traditional metrics of success, but celebrated for courage, innovation, and purpose-driven impact. Today, society recognises that the most transformative leaders are those who challenge the status quo with resilience, lead with empathy as much as ambition, and create opportunities for others to rise. This award mirrors the demand for leaders who blend strength with authenticity, who measure power not by dominance but by legacy, whether through groundbreaking entrepreneurship, advocacy for equity, or redefining industries. In honouring women who dare boldly, it reinforces that the future of leadership is inclusive, audacious, and unapologetically transformative. Madame Clicquot's pioneering spirit lives on in these leaders, proof that society now values not just what women achieve, but how they change the game.

### **Q) What kind of ripple effect have you seen past winners of the Bold Woman Award create in their industries or communities?**



A) The ripple effects of past winners are as diverse as the leaders themselves, each creating waves in their own extraordinary way. Some have sparked industry-wide revolutions, turning startups into global forces or reimaging corporate leadership with fearless authenticity. Others have ignited grassroots movements, using their platforms to amplify marginalised voices or pioneer sustainability efforts that reshape entire sectors. There's no uniform blueprint; one winner might be a disrupter who thrives on bold risks, while another builds change quietly but relentlessly, proving that influence doesn't always roar. What unites them is the catalytic nature of their courage, whether through mentorship that lifts the next generation, policies that dismantle barriers, or innovations that redefine what's possible. Their impact isn't just measured in milestones, but in the mindsets they shift and the doors they fling open for others. The lesson? Bold leadership isn't one-size-fits-all, it's about owning your unique power and letting it create waves only you can make.

**Q) What advice would you give to women who feel they don't fit the 'traditional' mold of a business leader?**

A) Forget squeezing into someone else's power suit; rewrite the rules with your humour, quirks, and humanity. The world's most iconic disruptors, from Madame Clicquot to today's bold CEOs, didn't ask for a seat at the table; they built a better one. So, lead audaciously, unapologetically you. After all, "professional" is just a word, and history remembers the women who redefined it while laughing all the way to the bank. Madame Clicquot didn't revolutionise champagne by asking permission. She did it widowed, in her 20s, in Napoleonic France.

**Q) Beyond the award itself, how do you see your role as a judge contributing to the next wave of women leaders?**

A) As a judge, my mission is to spotlight female entrepreneur leaders who redefine power on their own terms, not to crown perfection, but to ignite a chain reaction of audacity. Every unconventional finalist or winner sends a message that your authenticity isn't a liability; it's your license to disrupt. By championing women who defy tired stereotypes, I help dismantle the idea that there's one "right" way to lead. The real prize? Watching the next wave of women think, "If she can win as her wild, unedited self, so can I."

**Q) Finally, please tell us about a bold move you are proud of making recently.**

A) I am always making bold moves. My middle name should be "bold". I recently turned down a "safe" and really amazing opportunity to bet entirely on myself and continue on my path as an independent entrepreneur. Boldness isn't about fearlessness, it's about choosing your "why" over your "what if."