

The Start and the Future of Sake.

奈良県酒造組合 Nara Sake Brewers Association

奈良県酒造協同組合 Nara Sake Brewers Joint Association

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https://yamato-umazake.com





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Alcohol has always been a part of human history and culture, and each country around the world has its own unique alcoholic drinks.The unique alcohol of each country is usually made from that country's main crop, and which suggests that each type of alcohol was first made a very long time ago. Today, alcohol from around the world is drunk in Japan, but nevertheless, there is one drink that people immediately associate with Japan, and that is sake, made from rice Japanese and sake have an intimate history together that goes back to the dawn of the country's history.

From the court to temples

Sake has been enjoyed in a range of ways since classical times. The Engishiki, a work compiled in the Heian period, lists some 14 types of sake. Wooden tablets recording such varieties of sake as "sumisake" (clear sake), "shiroki" (white sake), "kuroki" (black sake), and medicinal sake have been excavated from the site of Heijokyo, the old capital. Other wooden tablets have been found that seem to show the roots of Nara pickles.The term "sumisake" used by these tablets refers to the clear sake obtained by filtering through silk.

To be able to create the refined, clear sake drunk today had to wait until the Middle Ages, when the center of political power shifted from the court nobles to the warrior class, the samurai. This was also the period when sake-brewing shifted from the court to temples. Nara, with its many great temples, was where culture from the continent ended up. Here a type of sake called "bozu-sake" (priest sake) made from the rice grown in the temple estates was very common.The brew made by the Shoryakuji Temple on the outskirts of Nara was epoch-making.

The origins of the various styles of sake brewing come from the Nara style

Shoryakuji Temple is today a quiet temple, almost lost among the rural hills. But at its height in the Muromachi period, it was a huge temple with 86 sub-temples on its grounds, and large amounts of bozu-sake were brewed there. They used the three-step brewing technique, where the ingredients are added in three parts, the "moro-haku" method where white rice is used for both koji (malt) and kake-mai, and "bodaimoto," the original sake starter. In addition, they also used a version of pasteurization about 300 years before the French microbiologist Louis Pasteur discovered heat-treating wine to prevent it going bad. With these methods, the temple priests established the basics of modern brewing.In addition, the development of carpentry tools at this time also made it possible to make large barrels for brewing sake in, rather than the pots or urns that were used before. This era saw dramatic leaps in the quality and quantity of sake, as well as its production techniques. In particular, Nara sake and moro-haku sake are synonymous with high-class sake, and almost all the terms related to sake in the Japanese-Portuguese dictionary compiled around that time were related to Nara sake. Even in Edo, after the Tokugawa shogunate started its rule, Nara sake was considered a rare treat. As it was shipped from Nara to Edo, it was known as "kudari-sake" or "down-sake," having come from up in the capital region. As this historical background shows, Nara can be called the birthplace of Japanese sake.



Fukuju-in, Bodaisan Shorvakuji Temple

Tales of Nara and Sake 2 Omiwa Shrine, home to the god of sake-brewing

The Omiwa Shrine, in Miwa, Sakurai, Nara Prefecture, is where brewers from around the country go to worship Omononushi, the god of brewing. The grounds also house the Ikuhi Shrine, which enshrines Takahashi-Ikuhi-no-Mikoto, considered to be the ancestor of brew-masters. In addition, a stock word used in poetry related to Miwa is "umasake" (tasty sake), once again showing how Nara and sake have such a deep relationship.

Miwa, the mystical home of sake-brewing

Japan's oldest Omiwa Shrine, built to worship sacred Mt. Miwa, has a long connection with sake. Miwa's Omononushi is the god of sake-brewing, and in ancient times, brewers would devote much worship to the god of Miwa. Omiwa $Shrine's \ sub-shrine, Ikuhi \ Shrine, houses \ the \ ancestor \ god \ of \ brew-masters.$ Regarding its god, Ikuhi-no-Mikoto, the Emperor Sujin records of the Nihon Shoki chronicle note how the great god of Miwa was worshiped when pestilence stalked the land and chaos reigned. Along with Ikuhi-no-Mikoto being the ancestor god of brew-masters, this shows how there has been someone responsible for brewing sacred sake at Omiwa Shrine for over a millennium.



The Sakae-ko is an assembly of brewing houses from around the country to praise the god of Omiwa and the divine virtues of the ancestor god of brew-masters. The Festival to Pray for Safety in Brewing (the Sake Festival) is held here on November 14 each year. The assembled people all pledge to strive to brew new sake with renewed hearts, and are blessed by the gods' virtue and influence. The Umasake Miwa Dance, a poem written when Ikuhi-no-Mikoto gifted sacred sake to the emperor and turned into a kagura court dance, is presented at the festival by shrine maidens in a solemn yet gorgeous performance.



During this festival, the shrine grants a sugitama, a ball of sugi (Japanese cedar) made from sacred trees from Mt. liwa: this is the "Sugitama Sign." Also known as a akabayashi" (sake forest), they are commonly seen inging from the eaves of a sake brewery. They are a sign roin the eaves of a sake brewery. They are a sign sake has been brewed using that year's rice they became standard from around the middle of erfool. The Miwasugitama is also a symbol of the sining the brewers and the gods of Miwa.



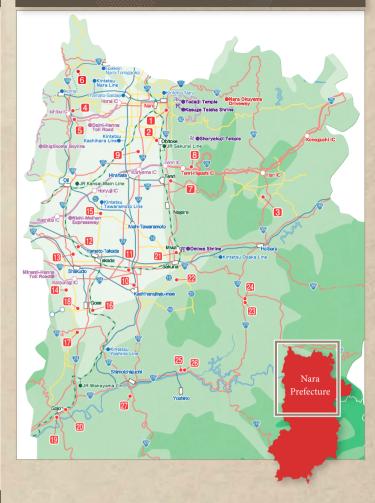
Sake as Japanese culture

Recently, younger people in particular are taking a fresh look at traditional Japanese culture. We in the sake-brewing trade also feel that now is the time we should return to our roots, once more meditating on the stories of the Miwa god, of Ikuhi-no-Mikoto as we revisit the role of sake in religious rituals, and in Japanese culture.

Once, Japanese saw the divine spirit within the life energy of rice. This symbol, its essence, was the mochi rice cakes and the sake so indispensable for rites. The first offering to the gods at the Omiwa Festival was sake, and sake was considered something sacred that bound the gods and men together. So we should think more deeply about the modern significance of sake-brewing and the relationship between the gods and sake in the old days as we set ourselves to our brewing. And at the same time, we should strive to have people know about the original taste of sake.

Sake as Japanese culture is something that has been fostered and cared for by the climate and land of Japan since the days of myth before the first emperor. We feel that this is a key word for considering the future of the Japanese sake industry.

Map of Nara Breweries



Nara Sake Brewers Association

Brewery name	Typical labels	Address	Telephone
		Address	relephone
株式会社今西清兵衛商店 S. Imanishi Co., Ltd.	春 鹿 Harushika	24-1 Fukuchiin-cho, Nara	0742-23-225
奈良豊澤酒造株式会社 Naratoyosawa Shuzo Co.,Ltd	豊 祝 Hoshuku	405 Imaichi-cho, Nara	0742-61-763
倉本酒造株式会社 Kuramoto Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.	金 嶽 Kingaku	2501 Tsugehayama-cho, Nara	0743-82-000
上田酒造株式会社 Ueda Sake Brew Co.,Ltd	嬉 長 Kicho	866 Ichibu-cho, Ikoma	0743-77-812
菊司醸造株式会社 Kikutsukasa Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.	菊 司 Kikutsukasa	555 Oze-cho, Ikoma	0743-77-800
株式会社中本酒造店 Nakamoto Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.	山 鶴 Yamatsuru	1067 Kami-machi, Ikoma	0743-78-000
稲田酒造合名会社 Inada Sake Brewery Co.	黒松稲天 Kuromatsu Inaten	379 Mishima-cho, Tenri	0743-62-004
增田酒造株式会社 Masuda Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.	都 姫 Miyakohime	42 Iwaya-cho, Tenri	0743-65-000
中谷酒造株式会社 Nakatani Brewing Co., Ltd.	大和郡山 中谷 Yamato Koriyama Nakatani	561 Banjyo, Yamato-Koriyama	0743-56-229
高多酒造株式会社 Kitashuzo Co.,Ltd.	御代菊 Miyokiku	8 Gobo-cho, Kashihara	0744-22-241
河合酒造株式会社 Kawai Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.	出世男 Shusse Otoko	1-7-8 Imai-cho, Kashihara	0744-22-215
澤田酒造株式会社 Sawada Syuzo Co., Ltd.	歓喜光 Kankiko	6-167 Goido, Kashiba	0745-78-122
株式会社大倉本家 Ookurahonke Co., Ltd.	金 鼓 Kinko	692 Kamada, Kashiba	0745-52-201
梅乃宿酒造株式会社 Umenoyado Brewery Co., Ltd.	梅乃宿 Umenoyado	27-1 Teraguchi, Katsuragi	0745-69-212
長龍酒造株式会社 Choryo Shuzo Co., Ltd.	吉野杉の樽酒 Yoshinosugi-no-Tarusake	4 Minami, Koryo-cho, Kitakatsuragi-gun	0745-56-202
油長酒造株式会社 Yucho Shuzo Co., Ltd.	風の森 Kaze no Mori	1160 Gose	0745-62-204
葛城酒造株式会社 Katsuragi Brewery Co., Ltd.	百楽門 Hyakurakumon	347-2 Nagara, Gose	0745-66-114
千代酒造株式会社 Chiyoshuzo Co., Ltd.	櫛 羅 Kujira	621 Kujira, Gose	0745-62-230
株式会社山本本家 Yamamoto Honke Co., Ltd.	松の友 Matsunotomo	1-2-19 Gojo, Gojo	0747-22-133
五條酒造株式会社 Gojoshuzo Co, Ltd.	五 神 Goshin	1-1-31 Imai, Gojo	0747-22-207
今西酒造株式会社 Imanishi Shuzo Co., Ltd	みむろ杉 Mimurosugi	510 Miwa, Sakurai	0744-42-602
西内酒造 Nishiuchishuzo	談 山 Tanzan	3 Shimo, Sakurai	0744-42-228
芳村酒造株式会社 Yoshimura Shuzo Co., Ltd.	千代乃松 Chiyonomatsu	1797 Oudamanroku, Uda	0745-83-223
株式会社久保本家酒造 Kubohonke Sake Brewery Limited	睡 龍 Suiryu	1834 Oudaideshin, Uda	0745-83-003
北村酒造株式会社 Kitamura Syuzo Co., Ltd.	猩 々 Shojo	172-1 Kamiichi, Yoshino-cho, Yoshino-gun	0746-32-202
株式会社北岡本店 Kitaoka Honten Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.	八咫烏 Yatagarasu	61 Kamiichi, Yoshino-cho, Yoshino-gun	0746-32-277
藤村酒造株式会社 Fujimura Shuzo Co., Ltd.	万代老松 Mandai Oimatsu	154 Shimoichi, Shimoichi-cho, Yoshino-gun	0747-52-253

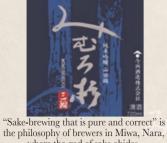


Shojo is a sake honed by an ancient history, a rich history.

Founded in 1788. Ascetics and woodsmen on Mt. Yoshino treasured this as the "spiritual sake of Yoshino." Sake-brewing that does not cater to the time.

北村酒造 株式会社 Kitamura Syuzo Co., Ltd.





where the god of sake abides.

Founded in 1660 at the foot of Omiwa Shrine, home to the god of sake.
Local sake from Miwa brewed using an underground stream from sacred Mt. Miwa.

今西酒造 株式会社 Imanishi Shuzo Co., Ltd



© 0744-42-6022 ₩0744-42-3612



Drawn to Bizen Omachi rice, ideal for sake. Single-mindedly brewing sake from only the best rice to draw out its flavor.

葛城洒造 株式会社 Katsuragi Brewery Co., Ltd.



347-2 Nagara, Gose, 639-2321 347-2 Nagara, Gose, 639-2321



A deep nostalgia for traditional "yamahai brewing. A simple taste based on the ancient mizumoto method. Major label/金鼓· Kinko

Over a hundred years have passed since our founding in the foothills of Mt. Nijo.

We pursue brewing good-quality sake, richly individualistic, with an emphasis on the traditional "yearshap" he wayno technique.

株式会社 大倉本家 Ookurahonke Co., Ltd.



692 Kamada, Kashiba, 639-0227 © 0745-52-2018 €0745-78-0019





A sake brewed using traditional techniques passed down strongly through generations of brew-masters in Yoshino, the eternal town.

Major label/八咫烏· Yatagarasu A sake with a mild mouthfeel, brewed using traditional techniques with the emphasis on being made by hand.

株式会社 北岡本店 Kitaoka Honten Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.



61 Kamiichi, Yoshino-cho, Yoshino-gun, 639-3111 61 Kamiichi, Yoshino-cho, Yoshino-gu
60 0746-32-2777
60 0746-32-8744
61 https://www.kitaoka-honten.



Our motto is to create sake that our customers love and which brings them joy.

We started brewing sake at the foot of Tanzan Shrine We started brewing started in the Meiji period.
We have a wide range of varieties such as nigorizake made using the first rice harvest of Yamato (Nara). 西内酒造 Nishiuchishuzo



3 Shimo, Sakurai, 633-0042 0 7744-42-2284 0 7744-45-1015



A mild sake brewed from the harmony between the people and the land of Kujira.

Major label / 横羅· Kujira

Sake made from an underground stream from Mt. Katsuragi, bubbling up from our own well. An easy-drinking sake with a clear finish and clean aftertaste, with a clean, spreading acidity. 千代酒造 株式会社 Chiyoshuzo Co., Ltd.



621 Kujira, Gose, 639-2312 621 Kujira, Gose, 639-2312
0 0745-62-2301
0 0745-62-0127
0 0745-62-0127 ₩0745-62-0127



Sake-brewing that speaks to the hearts of our drinkers.

Our sake is brewed using Yamada Nishiki rice and ultra-soft underground water from the Katsuragi Range, giving it a gentle, fine-grained taste.

椰乃宿酒造 株式会社 Umenoyado Brewery Co., Ltd.



27-1 Teraguchi, Katsuragi, 639-2135 @ 0745-69-2121 ₱0745-69-2122



Beautiful sake from Kashihara, offering history and pleasure.

Major label/御代菊天 · Mivokiku

Founded in 1718 in Kashihara, the wellspring of Yamato culture.

With quality above all, we protect our founder's "make-brewing with care" beliefs.



8 Gobo-cho, Kashihara, 634-0062
0 744-22-2419



Tenri, the spiritual homeland. An inheritance of delicious sake-brewing fostered through history.

Major label/黒松稲天・ Kuromatsı Valuing connections among people, we are particular about the local rice, water, and people we use, brewing sake that goes well with meals.

稲田酒造 合名会社 Inada Sake Brewery Co.



379 Mishima-cho, Tenri, 632-0015 379 Mishima-cho, Tenri, 632-0
0 0743-62-0040
0 0743-63-5563
http://www.inaten.com



866-1 Ichibu-cho, Ikoma, 630-0222 866-1 Ichibu-cho, Ikoma, 630-0
0743-77-8122
0743-76-0701

Exploring the now while cherishing

tradition and handmade values.

For more than 400 years since our founding, our motto has been "Sake has Soul." Our mellow yet



Spreading "umazake" to a dozen or more countries.

Established in 1884 in Nara, a town that retains a nostalgic atmosphere, close to World Heritage sites such as the Kofukuji and Gangoji temples.

株式会社 今西清兵衛商店 S. Imanishi Co., Ltd.



3. manishi Co., Ltd.

□ 24-1 Fukuchiin-cho, Nara, 630-8381

□ 14-1 © 0742-23-2255

□ 14-1 © 0742-27-3585



A straightforward sake brewery that does not go with the times.

Major label/万代老松・Mandai Oimatsi With quality first as our motto, we draw out the taste of the rice to create a rich sake that goes refreshingly down your throat.

藤村酒造 株式会社 Fujimura Shuzo Co., Ltd.



0747-52-2538 ₩0747-52-8739



Local Ouda sake from Kagirohi-no-Sato.

Castle town of the Oda clan. The nature with which the cold climate blessed Uda, in Yamato Province, and its water and good quality rice are used to brew

芳村酒造 株式会社 Yoshimura Shuzo Co., Ltd.



1797 Oudamanroku, Uda, 633-2163 0745-83-2231 ₩0745-83-0840



The certainty of something founded three centuries ago. Major label/松の友・Mats

We are a sake brewery along the clear banks of the Yoshino River, a land well-suited to making sake, which is so dependent on rice and water. We also make persimmon wine from Fuyu persimmons.

株式会社 山本本家 Yamamoto Honke Co., Ltd.



1-2-19 Gojo, Gojo, 637- 0042 © 0747-22-1331 ⊕0747-22-3366



"Shodo Mukyukyoku": The road to making good sake is one that never ends.

Major label/吉野杉の樽酒・Yoshinosugi-no-Tar Yoshinosugi-no-Tarusake is Japan's first bottled barrel-brewed sake. We brew sake that offers joy, that moves you, maintain tradition while continuing new challenges.

長龍酒造 株式会社 Choryo Shuzo Co., Ltd.

4 Minami, Koryo-cho, Kitakatsuragi-gun, 635-0818 0745-56-2026 €0745-56-3080



Local sake with a taste that weaves history and tradition.

Major label/出世男·Shusse Otok The only active sake brewery in Imai-cho, where streetscapes from the Edo period still remain. Our famous Shusse Otoko label is seen as a true sake for bringing good fortune.

河合酒造 株式会社 Kawai Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.



1-7-8 Imai-cho, Kashihara, 634-0812 © 0744-22-2154



This is a dry "tanrei" sake made from rice, water, tradition, technology, and the natural environment.

For 12 generations over 350 years, we have maintained the traditions of the famous Nara sake brand where we were founded, in Ichinomoto Iway

增田酒造 株式会社 Masuda Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.



42 lwaya-cho, Tenri, 632-0003



Founded more than 300 years ago This offering interweaves nature and tradition. Major label/菊司·Kikutsukasa

Founded in 1705, we have been continuously producing sake in the post-station town of Oze on the Nara Kaido road just before the Kuragari Pass.

菊司醸造 株式会社 Kikutsukasa Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.



555 Oze-cho, Ikoma, 630-0223

0 743-77-8005

0 743-77-8420



Toast with Hoshuku, the sake for celebrations!

A "Special Designation Sake" with 80% of its output junmai or higher.
We are proud of the emphasis on hand-crafted sakes that dates back to our founding.

奈良豐澤酒造 株式会社 Naratoyosawa Shuzo Co.,Ltd



405 Imaichi-cho, Nara, 630-8444

\$\infty\ 0742-61-7636

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Life, completely fermented.

Major label/睡龍 · Suiryu

A kimoto junmai sake matured for 20 years that the 株式会社 久保本家酒造 Kubohonke Sake Brewery Limited





Aiming for sake that will please as many people as possible. Major label/五神・Goshin 賀名生・Anou

Founded in 1924. A mellow sake produced in small batches, it draws on the fine-grained hand-made craftsmanship of the traditional Tajima style.

五條酒造 株式会社 Goioshuzo Co., Ltd.



1-1-31 Imai, Gojo, 637-0004 © 0747-22-2079 © 0747-25-3646



Creating future sake as vet unseen while pursuing the traditions of Nara sake. Major label/風の森・Kaze no Mori

油長酒造 株式会社 Yucho Shuzo Co., Ltd.

1160 Gose, 639-2200

We search for diverse sakes using brewing technique that can only be achieved in modern times yet that express to the full the uniqueness of Nara sake.

> 0745-62-2047 ₩0745-62-3400



A sake brewery that produces happiness for people through sake, music, and health. Major label/歓喜光·Kankiko

We started when a dyer opened a sake brewery in the Meiji period.

Our sake is brewed based on the traditions of Nara sake and our philosophy of "tradition and progress." 澤田洒造 株式会社 Sawada Syuzo Co., Ltd.



6-167 Goido, Kashiba, 639-0226 © 0745-78-1221 © 0745-76-0005 https://www.kankiko.jo



Nakatani's Sake Brewery & Bar, offering a sake making experience álongside a sake bar. 2-4 Yanagi, Yamato-Koriyama

Major label/大和郡山 中谷·Yamato Koriyama Nakatan (5 mins walk from Kintetsu Koriyama Station) nd Tuesdays (open if a public holiday) Phone: 0743-85-7281

中谷酒造 株式会社 Nakatani Brewing Co., Ltd.

561 Banjyo, Yamato-Koriyama, 639-1117

\$\infty \text{\text{\colored}} 0743-56-2296

\$\infty \text{\text{\colored}} 0743-56-2464



Founded in 1727, we emphasize unwaveringly serious sake-brewing in the mountains of Ikoma.

Major label/山鶴·Yamatsuri 'Umazake" where the aesthetics of junmai resonate

株式会社中本洒造店 Nakamoto Sake Brewery Co., Ltd. 1067 Kami-machi, Ikoma, 630-0131

1067 Kami-machi, Ikoma, 630-0131

1067 Kami-machi, Ikoma, 630-0131

10743-78-0005

10743-79-0360

10743-79-0360



town of ice storehouses. Major label/金嶽·Kingaku A deep taste brewed using traditional methods in a blessed natural environment. Refined sake from an



