#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **INE MANKAI**

Name Ine Mankai 伊根満開

Brewery Mukai Shuzō 向井酒造

Type junmai akamaishu

**Content** 300 ml, 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 70%
Prefecture Kyoto
Alcohol percentage 14%
Sake Meter Value -54
Acidity 5.8

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



Made partly from black rice, which is purple on the inside, resulting in a unique red colour. The sweetness and acidity of this sake combine into a fruity taste, which at times may taste like pomegranate followed by olives. The black rice used is a pre-historic variety, which was preserved at Tokyo Agricultural University. Sweet and smoky, a bit like sherry. Drink cold.

The Mukai Shuzō brewery was founded in 1754. Mukai Kuniko, the brewer (*tōji*) of Mukai Shuzō is one of the first female brewers in Japan. She is constantly experimenting with new types of sake, most of which are made in miniscule amounts. The brewery is right on the Japan Sea, in a picturesque village known for its unique boat garages (*funaya*), located right under the houses that stick out over the water. Mukai Shuzō has recently become a strictly pure rice wine (*junmaishu*) brewery.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **AFS**

Name AFS AFS 生

Brewery Kidoizumi Shuzō 木戸泉酒造

**Type** junmai yamahai nama

Content 500 ml
Rice polishing rate 65%
Prefecture Chiba
Alcohol percentage 13%
Sake Meter Value -33
Acidity 6.8

Serving Drink cold
Storage Store cold

AFS, the limited young and unpasteurised version of the 30 year aged sake AFS, is made by the 'hot *yamahai*' method only used by the brewery Kidoizumi. The result is an intense mix of incredibly high levels of sweetness and acidity, which combine into a sour apple/citrus-like taste. Intense young sake. A truly unique and refreshing aperitif. Drink cold.

Kidoizumi Shuzō - founded in 1879 - is the only brewery in Japan that uses the hot *yamahai* method. *Yamahai* is thought to be suitable only for cold places, but the brewery developed a method where large amounts of lacto bactylus cultivated on the premises are added to a starter kept at very high temperature. The result is a unique full-body multi-layered taste. The brewery is also a pioneer in producing aged sake (*koshu*). Having started some sixty years ago with aging a large quantity of sake annually, it is one of the few breweries that has ample experience in maturing sake, can provide a steady supply of very old sake, and even has the luxury of being able to make blends.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **DAIGO NO SHIZUKU**

**Name** Daigo no Shizuku 醍醐のしずく

Brewery Terada Honke 寺田本家

**Type** junmai bodaimoto muroka

nama genshu shizenshu

Content 720 ml

Rice polishing rate 90% ~ 93%

PrefectureChibaAlcohol percentage $9 \sim 16\%$ Sake Meter Value $-20 \sim -60$ Acidity $6 \sim 12$ ServingDrink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration



A medieval sake made on the basis of a temple recipe from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. Since it dates back to before the 17<sup>th</sup> century sake revolution, it had better be termed 'fermented rice drink' than sake. The starter is made overnight instead of in one month, all ingredients are added in one go instead of three stages, and the fermentation only lasts ten days instead of a full month. Terada Honke is the only brewery making this *bodaimoto* brew under completely medieval conditions. Organic rice, minimal polishing, no addition of yeast or lacto acid, unpasteurised, unfiltered, undiluted. Moreover, like in the middle ages, this sake is made year-round, making for a constantly varying alcohol percentage, sake meter value, and acidity. This rough and radical brewing method results in a refreshing full-body drink with very strong sweetness and acidity, combining into a citrus-like taste. Store cold and drink cold.

The Terada Honke brewery was founded around 1675 and they have returned to early modern and medieval brewing methods. Easiest the most radical brewery of Japan, modern machinery has been done away with and natural, organic and handwork are the new keywords. Accordingly Terada Honke is one of the very few breweries that does not use any cultivated yeast or kōji, relying solely on the natural yeast culture of their brewery and hand-picked kōji. Most of the production is fermented in the slow-brew *kimoto* method where no lactic acid is added to the starter (*moto*). The rice used is organic.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### SHIZENMAI SPARKLING

Name Shizenmai Sparkling 自然舞スパークリング

Brewery Kidoizumi Shuzō 木戸泉酒造

junmai yamahai muroka **Type** 

nama genshu shizenshu

Content 360 ml, 720 ml

Rice polishing rate 60%
Prefecture Chiba
Alcohol percentage 14%
Sake Meter Value +1.5
Acidity 2.0

Serving Drink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration (5 C)



All the way natural sparkling sake. Made with organic rice and the gas originates in the only natural way, namely by straining the brew roughly so some of the brewing mass is still on the bottle. This is also why sparkling pure sake is always cloudy sake. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, and undiluted to retain all the life, taste and aroma. Dry and refreshing, the real Champagne Japonaise. Open with care, bit by bit, to avoid spillage. Store in refrigeration and drink cold.

Kidoizumi Shuzō - founded in 1879 - is the only brewery in Japan that uses the hot *yamahai* method. *Yamahai* is thought to be suitable only for cold places, but the brewery developed a method where large amounts of lacto bactylus cultivated on the premises are added to a starter kept at very high temperature. The result is a unique full-body multi-layered taste. The brewery is also a pioneer in producing aged sake (*koshu*). Having started some sixty years ago with aging a large quantity of sake annually, it is one of the few breweries that has ample experience in maturing sake, can provide a steady supply of very old sake, and even has the luxury of being able to make blends.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **KIZAN NIGORI**

**Name** Kizan Nigori 帰山にごり

Chikumanishiki

Brewery

千曲錦酒造

Shuzō

**Type** junmai ginjō nama genshu nigori

Content 720 ml

Rice polishing rate 55%

Prefecture Nagano

Alcohol percentage 15%
Sake Meter Value -13
Acidity 3.1

Serving Drink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration (5 C)



White-cloudy limited version of our best-selling fruity *ginjō* sake Kizan. Sweet and aromatic, like pear and apple, but with loads of the brewing mass left on the bottle. Unfiltered, undiluted, and unpasteurised, so still full of life and may also contain gas. Open with care, bit by bit, to avoid spillage. Store in refrigeration and drink cold.

Seasonal sake, only available in late spring/early summer, on the basis of pre-reservation. Best consumed before the end of the calendar year.

The Chikuma Nishiki brewery was founded in 1681. Kizan is a relatively new, high-quality *junmai* brand that was introduced in 1997.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **DAKUSHU**

Name Dakushu 濁酒

Brewery Ōkura Honke 大倉本家

Type junmai bodaimoto

muroka nama genshu

Content720 mlRice polishing rate60%PrefectureNaraAlcohol percentage12%Sake Meter Value-25

Acidity

Serving Drink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration (5 C)

3.5



Dakushu means 'cloudy sake', which is an understatement in the case of this sake. The brew has gone straight from the tank into the bottle, without any pressing or straining, the bottle thus containing a milky way of rice grains. This uniquely unstrained short-brew sake takes us back to the roots of sake-making. Made on the basis of the 600-year old *bodaimoto* tradition of Nara breweries, this sake used to be presented only to the gods. Made twice a year, in November and May. Slightly acidic and refreshing, with the added sensation of soft rice grains on your tongue. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, undiluted and no yeast added. This is the unstrained brewing mash, so there is a lot of gas-formation on the bottle. Open with care, bit by bit, to avoid spillage. Store in refrigeration and drink cold.

The Ōkura Honke brewery was founded in 1896 and boasts a beautiful old brewery in the heartland of Japan. The present young owner/headbrewer fought the opposition of his father and re-opened the brewery, after it had been closed for some years. Under the motto of 'Be different' he introduced a biker-attitude to the sake industry and a new pure sake line under the name of Ōkura to the brewery, which is drawing a lot of attention lately.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **MUSUBI**

Name Musubi むすひ

Brewery Terada Honke 寺田本家

**Type** junmai genmai muroka

nama genshu shizenshu

Content720 mlRice polishing rate100%PrefectureChibaAlcohol percentage8% ~ 10%

Sake Meter Value  $-10 \sim -20$ Acidity  $7 \sim 8$ 

Serving Drink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration



Radical medieval brew made on the basis of completely unpolished rice. Since it dates back to before the 17<sup>th</sup> century sake revolution, it had better be termed 'fermented rice drink' than sake. The starter is made overnight instead of in one month, all ingredients are added in one go instead of three stages, and the fermentation only lasts ten days instead of a full month. True to its medieval character, it is made throughout the year, thus making for varying alcohol percentage, sake meter value, and acidity. Sour, sparkling and refreshing. Musubi is the ultimate rice drink, healthy and 100% natural. Organic rice, no yeast or lactic acid added, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted. Especially nice with vegetable dishes. Open with care, bit by bit, to avoid spillage. Store in refrigeration and drink cold.

The Terada Honke brewery was founded around 1675 and they have returned to early modern and medieval brewing methods. Easiest the most radical brewery of Japan, modern machinery has been done away with and natural, organic and handwork are the new keywords. Accordingly Terada Honke is one of the very few breweries that does not use any cultivated yeast or kōji, relying solely on the natural yeast culture of their brewery and hand-picked kōji. Most of the production is fermented in the slow-brew *kimoto* method where no lactic acid is added to the starter (*moto*). The rice used is organic.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **SENKIN TSURUKAME 19**

Senkin Name

仙禽鶴亀 19 Tsurukame 19

Brewery Senkin 仙禽

**Type** junmai daiginjō muroka

genshu kiokezake

Content 720 mlRice polishing rate 19%Prefecture TochigiAlcohol percentage 16%

Sake meter value undisclosed Acidity undisclosed

Serving Drink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration



Supreme but affordable luxury. A super-daiginjō sake for which the rice grain is polished down to an incredible 19%! Very delicate aroma, with a perfect balance between sweetness and acidity, the trademark of all Senkin sake. Small-batch handwork, brewed in wooden barrels, extremely slow pressing. Unfiltered, undiluted. Store in refrigeration, drink cold.

Senkin is a local brewery with a history dating back to 1806. However, the two young brothers Usui have completely changed the postwar legacy of their forefathers. They have radically downsized production volume and have returned to such traditional elements as wooden tanks, *kimoto* and *yamahai* slow-brew, and extremely slow pressing. Almost all Senkin sake are unfiltered and undiluted. Motivated by a strong urge to do things differently from others, they have developed a new formula of sweet-and-sour sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### SATO NO HOMARE DAIGINJŌ

Sato no Homare **Name** 郷乃譽大吟醸

Daiginjō

Brewery Sudō Honke 須藤本家

**Type** junmai daiginjō muroka nama

Content720 mlRice polishing rate35%PrefectureIbarakiAlcohol percentage16%

Sake Meter Value undisclosed
Acidity undisclosed
Serving Drink cold

Storage Store in refrigeration



Superb sake from the oldest brewery of Japan. Almost 900 years of history, but constantly in the lead. Its ruthless no-compromise stand has led to extremely delicate sake with enchanting aromas. The elegance and balance of this exquisite sake are simply magic and confirm the unrivalled status of Sudō Honke as the best brewer of *daiginjō* sake. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, natural yeast. Store in refrigeration, drink cold.

The brewery Sudō Honke was founded sometime before 1141 and thus can easily boast of being the oldest functioning brewery in Japan. No trace of conservatism though, as they took the lead in the postwar reintroduction of pure and unpasteurised sake. They have moreover developed a policy of producing only *daiginjō* sake, although their definition of *daiginjō* is considerably higher than usual. Their strict hygienic standards have turned the brewery into a laboratory and their sake into products of extreme elegance, but also a fragile elegance, which makes that all Sato no Homare sake should be stored in refrigeration and should be consumed within two weeks after opening.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### NABESHIMA DAIGINJŌ

Name Nabeshima Daiginjō 鍋島純米大吟醸

Brewery Fukuchiyo Shuzō 富久千代酒造

**Type** junmai daiginjō

Content720 mlRice polishing rate35%PrefectureSagaAlcohol percentage16%Sake Meter Value-4Acidity1.3

Serving Drink cold



The ultimate *daiginjō* sake. Flagship of the artisanal Fukuchiyo top-brewery, receiving a gold medal year after year. The top-grade Yamadanishiki rice of Hyōgo Prefecture has been polished down to 35%. Very elegant: soft and fruity, with a light but tasteful body. Slightly sweet with balancing acidity, Nabeshima Junmai Daiginjō is a luxurious accompaniment to raw fish and light starters. A sake that even in Japan is extremely difficult to get a hold of. Store in refrigeration, drink cold.

The brewery Fukuchiyo Shuzō was founded in 1885 and is part of a cluster of sake breweries in the pre-modern market town of Kashima. A relatively small traditional brewery, but its exquisite *daiginjō* and *ginjō* sake have received national and international recognition, making its product sought after by specialised sake shops and bars. Its *daiginjō* won the overall first prize at the 2011 IWC and accordingly Nabeshima sake became even more difficult to get.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **DŌKAN DAIGINJŌ**

Name Dōkan Daiginjō 道灌純米大吟醸

Brewery Ōta Shuzō 太田酒造

junmai daiginjō muroka nama

**Type** genshu

Content 720 ml
Rice polishing rate 50%
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake Meter Value +2

Acidity 1.7

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



A full-taste *daiginjō* for a minimal price. This very limited top-class sake is as pure as it gets: unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted. With direct samurai lineage, symbolised by the name 'Dōkan'. Peach taste, very refreshing finish. Matches well with a large variety of dishes. Drink cold.

The Ōta brewery was founded in 1874. The owner is a descendent of Ōta Dōkan, the famous samurai who built Edo castle, the present imperial palace in the centre of Tokyo. The Ōta family is the proud owner of a beautiful old brewery on the old trade route from Tokyo to Kyoto, a second brewery in the brewing centre of Nada, and a winery also located in Shiga Prefecture.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### SATO NO HOMARE KUROGIN

Sato no Homare **Name** 郷乃譽黒吟

Kurogin

Brewery Sudō Honke 須藤本家

Type junmai (dai)ginjō muroka nama

Content 720 ml
Rice polishing rate 48%
Prefecture lbaraki
Alcohol percentage 15%

Sake Meter Value undisclosed
Acidity undisclosed
Serving Drink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration



Exquisite sake from the oldest brewery of Japan. Almost 900 years of history, but constantly in the lead. Brewery only produces pure *daiginjō* sake. Their ruthless no-compromise stand has led to extremely delicate sake with most enchanting aromas. Kuro-Gin (Black Label) is medium-body, and the most outspokenly fruity and aromatic sake of this brewery. Although a *ginjō* sake by Sato no Homare standards, the polishing rate and elegance go easily beyond *daiginjō*. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, natural yeast. Store in refrigeration, drink cold.

The brewery Sudō Honke was founded sometime before 1141 and thus can easily boast of being the oldest functioning brewery in Japan. No trace of conservatism though, as they took the lead in the postwar reintroduction of pure and unpasteurised sake. They have moreover developed a policy of producing only *daiginjō* sake, although their definition of *daiginjō* is considerably higher than usual. Their strict hygienic standards have turned the brewery into a laboratory and their sake into products of extreme elegance, but also a fragile elegance, which makes that all Sato no Homare sake should be stored in refrigeration and should be consumed within two weeks after opening.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### SATO NO HOMARE KAZAN

郷乃譽霞山

Sato no Homare

Kazan

Sudō Honke 須藤本家

**Type** junmai (dai)ginjō muroka nama

Content720 mlRice polishing rate50%PrefectureIbarakiAlcohol percentage15%

**Brewery** 

Sake Meter Value undisclosed
Acidity undisclosed

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store in refrigeration



Exquisite sake from the oldest brewery of Japan. Almost 900 years of history, but constantly in the lead. Brewery only produces pure *daiginjō* sake. Their ruthless no-compromise stand has led to extremely delicate sake with enchanting aromas. Kazan (hazy mountains) is light-body, slightly dry and fruity, and functions as a good introduction to the more luxurious Sato no Homare collection. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, natural yeast. Store in refrigeration, drink cold.

The brewery Sudō Honke was founded sometime before 1141 and thus can easily boast of being the oldest functioning brewery in Japan. No trace of conservatism though, as they took the lead in the postwar reintroduction of pure and unpasteurised sake. They have moreover developed a policy of producing only *daiginjō* sake, although their definition of *daiginjō* is considerably higher than usual. Their strict hygienic standards have turned the brewery into a laboratory and their sake into products of extreme elegance, but also a fragile elegance, which makes that all Sato no Homare sake should be stored in refrigeration and should be consumed within two weeks after opening.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **NABESHIMA GINJŌ**

Name Nabeshima Ginjō 鍋島純米吟醸

Brewery Fukuchiyo Shuzō 富久千代酒造

**Type** junmai (dai)ginjō

**Content** 300 ml, 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 50%
Prefecture Saga
Alcohol percentage 16%
Sake Meter Value -1
Acidity 1.4

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



This sake is made from the highest grade Yamadanishiki rice of Hyōgo Prefecture, and is an example of a perfect *ginjō* sake, with strong yet not overbearing fruity aroma and a light but tasteful body. It is actually more than a *ginjō*, since the polishing rate is of *daiginjō* level. Slightly sweet with balancing acidity, Nabeshima Ginjō is a pleasant accompaniment for light tasting food. Drink cold.

The brewery Fukuchiyo Shuzō was founded in 1885 and is part of a cluster of sake breweries in the pre-modern market town of Kashima. A relatively small traditional brewery, but its exquisite *daiginjō* and *ginjō* sake have received national and international recognition, making its product sought after by specialised sake shops and bars. Its *daiginjō* won the overall first prize at the 2011 IWC and accordingly Nabeshima sake became even more difficult to get.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **SENKIN KIMOTO 50**

Senkin Mame 仙禽生酛 50 亀ノ尾

Kimoto 50

Brewery Senkin 仙禽

**Type** junmai kimoto daiginjō muroka

namagenshu kiokezake

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 50%
Prefecture Tochigi
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake meter value -5
Acidity 3.0

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



A revolutionary new type of *daiginjō* sake. Sweet-and-sour, full-body and rich taste. Pre-modern *kimoto* slow-brew, made in a wooden tank. A return to traditional sake-making and handwork, but with a very refreshing modern result. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, undiluted. The beautiful handmade *washi* label features the two Chinese characters for Senkin, as flying cranes. Drink cold.

Senkin is a local brewery with a history dating back to 1806. However, the two young brothers Usui have completely changed the postwar legacy of their forefathers. They have radically downsized production volume and have returned to such traditional elements as wooden tanks, *kimoto* and *yamahai* slow-brew, and extremely slow pressing. Almost all Senkin sake are unfiltered and undiluted. Motivated by a strong urge to do things differently from others, they have developed a new formula of sweet-and-sour sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **KIZAN**

Name Kizan 帰山

Chikumanishiki Brewery

千曲錦酒造 Shuzō

**Type** junmai ginjō nama genshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 55%
Prefecture Nagano
Alcohol percentage 15%
Sake Meter Value -13
Acidity 3.1

Serving Drink cold

**Storage** Store in refrigeration



A very elegant yet full-bodied, fruity *ginjō* sake. Unpasteurised. A combination of sweetness and acidity results in a refreshing apple-like aroma and taste. In contrast to most *ginjō*, which predominantly offer aroma, Kizan has a very high level of acidity for a *ginjō* sake and accordingly also provides full body and full taste. Store in refrigeration. Drink cold.

The Chikuma Nishiki brewery was founded in 1681. Kizan is a new high-quality *junmai* brand that was introduced in 1997.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **SHIBORITATE**

Name Shiboritate しぼりたて生原酒

Brewery Kidoizumi Shuzō 木戸泉酒造

**Type** junmai shiboritate muroka nama genshu

Content 300 ml and 720 ml

Rice polishing rate 60%
Prefecture Chiba
Alcohol percentage 18%
Sake Meter Value +1.5
Acidity 2.9

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



Shiboritate means 'freshly pressed' in Japanese, and the Japanese love fresh, new seasonal foods and beverages. However, as freshly pressed sake is usually quite harsh and bitter, most breweries use low acidity yeast, and then filter and dilute the sake with water to make it easily drinkable. Kidoizumi's Shiboritate sticks to the real meaning of the word: it is bottled in its original unpasteurized form straight from the press, with no additional water or any filtration. This limited first-press version of Hakugyokukō is a powerful and refreshing drink. Drink cold.

Kidoizumi Shuzō - founded in 1879 - is the only brewery in Japan that uses the hot *yamahai* method. *Yamahai* is thought to be suitable only for cold places, but the brewery developed a method where large amounts of lacto bactylus cultivated on the premises are added to a starter kept at very high temperature. The result is a unique full body multi-layered taste. The brewery is also a pioneer in producing aged sake (*koshu*). Having started some sixty years ago with aging a large quantity of sake annually, it is one of the few breweries that has ample experience in maturing sake, can provide a steady supply of very long-aged sake, and even has the luxury of being able to make blends.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **HANATOMOE**

Name Hanatomoe 花巴水酛純米原酒

Brewery Miyoshino Jōzō 美吉野醸造

junmai bodaimoto muroka nama

Type

genshu

Content 720 mlRice polishing rate 70%Prefecture NaraAlcohol percentage 17%

Sake Meter Value -13 Acidity 3.5

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



Made using the unique medieval *bodaimoto* brewing method of Nara breweries, this refreshing unpasteurised sake has retained the wild and flowery character of young sake. Unfiltered, undiluted, no yeast added. Drink cold.

Miyoshino Jōzō is an extremely small-scale family brewery, which re-started at the present location in 1912. At the moment the brewery is pretty much a one-man enterprise, run by the young brewer Hashimoto Teruaki, enabling him to do whatever he feels like. This has resulted in various one-tank-only experiments, which have put this small brewery in the spotlight of sake lovers' interest. Almost without exception the Hanatomoe sake brands are pure, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted, and most are made with natural yeast. The brewery is located in the village of Yoshino, Japan's most famous cherry-blossom viewing spot, but also well-known for Yoshino cedar wood, used by most breweries for making cask-sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### HANA WA SAKU

Name Hana wa Saku 花は咲く

Brewery Senkin 仙禽

**Type** junmai kimoto daiginjō muroka

genshu kiokezake

Content 720 ml

Rice polishing rate 50%

Prefecture Tochigi

Alcohol percentage 13%

Sake meter value -5

Acidity 3.0

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool

Another revolutionary experiment from the Senkin brewery. A daiginjō sake made with a Bordeaux wine yeast variety, emphasized by the wine-like design of the label and the bottle. The result is a light, fruity and refreshing sake with the wild and flowery character of young sake. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, undiluted. Store dark and cool. Drink cold.

Senkin is a local brewery with a history dating back to 1806. However, the two young brothers Usui have completely changed the postwar legacy of their forefathers. They have radically downsized production volume and have returned to such traditional elements as wooden tanks, *kimoto* and *yamahai* slow-brew, and extremely slow pressing. Almost all Senkin sake are unfiltered and undiluted. Motivated by a strong urge to do things differently from others, they have developed a new formula of sweet-and-sour sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **MORI NO KURA**

Name Mori no Kura 杜の蔵純米吟醸

**Brewery** Mori no Kura 杜の蔵

**Type** junmai (dai)ginjō **Content** 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 50%

**Prefecture** Fukuoka

Alcohol percentage 15%
Sake Meter Value +2
Acidity 1.0

**Serving** Drink cold or slightly warmed up

Storage Store dark and cool



This is an elegant sake with a very light fruity aroma, light body and crisp finish. In 2011 the brewery decided to make this sake its flagship and accordingly, from that year's vintage onwards the sake formerly known as Ōtemon acquired the name of the brewery, Mori no Kura, and a new, more modern design. Although the brewery Mori no Kura categorizes this as their *ginjō* sake, it has a very luxurious, *daiginjō*—level polishing rate. It's neither dry nor sweet, but gives impressions of both as it travels through the mouth. Drink cold or warmed up. When warmed up slightly, it will grow in body.

The Mori no Kura brewery was founded in 1898. It was one of the first breweries in Japan to adopt a policy of making only pure sake (*junmaishu*) without any additives. It is also well-known for its Komagura-series of matured sake.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### KINOKUNIYA BUNZAEMON

Name Kinokuniya Bunzaemon 紀伊国屋文左衛門

Brewery Nakano BC 中野 BC

Type junmaishu
Content 180 ml
Rice polishing rate 65%

Prefecture Wakayama

Alcohol percentage 15% Sake Meter Value -4 Acidity 1.6

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



An elegant, slightly fruity sake. Easy to combine with all dishes. Kinokuniya Bunzaemon is the major brand of the brewery and it is one of the few pure sake available in the extra-small 180ml bottle-size. Drink cold.

Nakano BC is a relatively new brewery, as it was established in 1961. Kinokuniya Bunzaemon is the main brand of the brewery. A new line of long-matured pure sake named Chōchōkyū was added in 2007. Showing the regional colour of Wakayama Prefecture, the brewery also produces many types of plum sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **TENTAKA ORGANIC**

Tentaka

Name 天鷹有機純米酒

Organic

**Brewery** Tentaka Shuzō 天鷹酒造

**Type** organic junmaishu

Content720 mlRice polishing rate65%PrefectureTochigiAlcohol percentage15%

**Sake Meter Value** 

Acidity

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool

This sake is the representative of Tentaka Shuzō, the brewery with the largest line-up of certified organic sake. Soft, but with plenty of acidity, umami and earthiness to make for a very rewarding sake. Slightly dry it is a perfect accompaniment for a wide range of vegetable, fish and meat dishes. Store dark and cool. Drink at any temperature.

The Tentaka brewery was founded in 1914, but it was hit severely by the 2011 earthquake. The newly built brewery is a state-of-the-art structure, dominated by stainless steel and from which all wooden elements have been banished. It is rigorously divided into two sections, one solely for the production of certified organic sake. It was a forerunner, focusing on organic brewing from 2001 onwards, and now easily is the one brewery with the highest yield and variety of organic certified sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **KOKORO**

Name Kokoro 湖弧艪

Brewery Ōta Shuzō 太田酒造

**Type** junmai nama genshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 70%
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake Meter Value +7
Acidity 1.8

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



Full-body, slightly dry sake. Rich combination of a deep rice-taste, lots of *umami*, and a pleasant light aroma. Limited-edition, small-volume brew with an extremely high cost-performance. This allround sake can be enjoyed at all temperatures and combines easily with a variety of food. Unpasteurised and undiluted. Drink cold, at room temperature, or warmed up.

The Ōta brewery was founded in 1874. The owner is a descendent of Ōta Dōkan, the famous samurai who built Edo castle, the present imperial palace in the centre of Tokyo. The Ōta family is the proud owner of a beautiful old brewery on the old trade route from Tokyo to Kyoto, a second brewery in the brewing centre of Nada, and a winery also located in Shiga Prefecture.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **BAMBI CUP**

Name Bambi Cup バンビ・カップ

Brewery Akishika Shuzō 秋鹿酒造

Type junmaishu
Content 180 ml
Rice polishing rate 65%
Prefecture Osaka
Alcohol percentage 14%
Sake meter value +8
Acidity 1.7

Serving Drink chilled

Storage Store dark and cool



The convenient outdoor format of cup sake is seldom available as pure sake. However, Bambi cup originates from the 100% pure sake brewery Akishika. The brewery name means 'autumn deer', which is why its smallest sized sake is termed Bambi. This is a dry and refreshing sake, which easily fits all dishes of all culinary traditions. Drink at all temperatures.

Akishika Shuzō is one of a handful of breweries that follow the wine chateau concept. Practically all the rice used is grown right around the brewery by the owner himself and about 20 contracted local farmers. Akishika was founded in 1886 and has under the present owner/headbrewer Oku Hiroaki acquired itself a reputation amongst connoisseurs of a brewery making top-quality sake with an outspoken dry and robust character. It boasts a huge maturation storage, where Oku leisurely ages some of the best matured sake to be found. Akishika Shuzō limits itself to making strictly pure rice wine (junmaishu) without any additives.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **MUTEMUKA**

Name Mutemuka 無手無冠

Brewery Mutemuka Shuzō 無手無冠酒造

**Type** junmai nama genshu shizenshu

**Content** 300 ml, 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 70%
Prefecture Kōchi
Alcohol percentage 18%
Sake Meter Value +5
Acidity 1.6

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



Made from a local variety of organically grown rice, and aged initially for about half a year at room temperature, this medium-bodied dry *namazake* (unpasteurized sake) has a unique ricy, earthy aftertaste. Mutemuka Shuzō's owner was a pioneer when about thirty years ago, against strong opposition from his neighbour farmers who believed in spraying away any form of life, he introduced organic farming to his sake rice. The result is a very earthy dry sake with a white chocolate aroma and aftertaste like no other. Drink cold, at room temperature, or warmed up (to enhance the chocolate aroma).

Mutemuka Shuzō is a small family brewery that was founded in 1893. It is located close to the source of the Shimantogawa, Japan's purest river. The brewery is also well-known for its chestnut *shōchū* Dabada Hiburi.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **HAKUGYOKUKŌ**

Name Hakugyokukō 白玉香

Brewery Kidoizumi Shuzō 木戸泉酒造

**Type** junmai yamahai muroka nama genshu

**Content** 300 ml, 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 60%
Prefecture Chiba
Alcohol percentage 18%
Sake Meter Value -1
Acidity 2.5

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



This is a *nama genshu* (unpasteurized and undiluted sake) produced in Kidoizumi's unique hotyamahai fermentation method. Kidoizumi is the only brewery in Japan capable of producing sake this way. The result is a robust full-body sake, with a deep and layered complex taste. Combines easily with vegetable, fish and meat dishes. Drink cold, at room temperature, or warmed up.

Kidoizumi Shuzō - founded in 1879 - is the only brewery in Japan that uses the hot *yamahai* method. *Yamahai* is thought to be suitable only for cold places, but the brewery developed a method where large amounts of lacto bactylus cultivated on the premises are added to a starter kept at very high temperature. The result is a unique full-body multi-layered taste. The brewery is also a pioneer in producing aged sake (*koshu*). Having started some sixty years ago with aging a large quantity of sake annually, it is one of the few breweries that has ample experience in maturing sake, can provide a steady supply of very old sake, and even has the luxury of being able to make blends.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **FURŌSEN WATARIBUNE**

Name Furōsen Wataribune 不老泉渡船

Brewery Uehara Shuzō 上原酒造

**Type** junmai yamahai ginjō muroka nama genshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 55%
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 16%
Sake Meter Value +4
Acidity 1.6

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



Refined *ginjō*-sake with the unique deep taste of Wataribune rice. This is a slow-brew *yamahai*, made without the addition of yeast. Unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted sake, it is very representative of the traditional brewery Uehara Shuzō. Made from Wataribune, a rice variety native to Shiga Prefecture, this sake has a delicate ricy aroma with light brown sugar tones, and smooth finish. Drink slightly chilled, at room temperature, or warmed. Just like all Uehara sake, the soft ricy aroma becomes most enchanting when warmed.

Uehara Shuzō was founded in 1862. The brewery has returned to traditional brewing methods and also because of its colossal wooden press looks like a true sake brewery museum. One of the few cradles of traditional sake brewing, it mainly produces slow-brew *yamahai*, natural yeast, slowly pressed, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### CHŌCHŌKYŪ 2012 / 2013

Name Chōchōkyū 2012/ 2013 超超久

Brewery Nakano BC 中野 BC

Type junmai ginjō muroka nama genshu

aged 4 / 3 years

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 55%

Prefecture Wakayama

Alcohol percentage 17%

**Sake Meter Value** +2 / +3 **Acidity** 1.8 / 1.3

**Serving** Drink cold or warmed up slightly

Storage Store dark and cool



This *namazake* (unpasteurized sake) has been aged in refrigeration for many years, and accordingly its name translates as 'very very long'. It is very unusual in its taste composition: combining high amino-acid content and strong acidity, it has a big body, but a soft rice aroma. On the one hand powerful taste, but on the other hand subdued tones of maturation, due to aging below zero. The general impression is of a perfectly balanced sake tilting towards the sweet side. The 2013 vintage is made with Omachi rice. For the 2014 vintage we have both a local Yamadanishiki rice and a Omachi rice version. Drink cold, preferably in a wine glass to enhance the slightly fruity rice aroma. Also very agreeable when warmed up slightly.

Nakano BC is a relatively new brewery, as it was established in 1961. Kinokuniya Bunzaemon is the main brand of the brewery. A new line of long-matured pure sake named Chōchōkyū was added in 2007. Showing the regional colour of Wakayama Prefecture, the brewery also produces many types of plum sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### TAMAGAWA KIMOTO

Name Tamagawa Kimoto 玉川生酛

Brewery Kinoshita Shuzō 木下酒造

**Type** junmai kimoto shizenshu

aged 3 years

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 77%
Prefecture Kyoto
Alcohol percentage 15%
Sake Meter Value +12
Acidity 2.5

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



This traditional *kimoto* slow-brew sake is made with organic rice, grown specifically to support the stork population near the brewery. Natural yeast. Slightly woody aroma and taste, matured for 3 years. Full of flavour, but not heavy and easy to arrange with a wide range of food. Drink at all temperatures, although the head-brewer Philip Harper prefers you to try it hot.

Kinoshita Shuzō is a small-scale brewery on the Japan Sea Coast side of Kyoto Prefecture founded in 1842. It successfully managed to position itself in the spotlights by simultaneously bringing in Englishman Philip Harper, who thus became the first foreign master brewer ( $t\bar{o}ji$ ), and introducing a revolutionary label design. Head-brewer Harper implemented traditional brewing methods, such as the slow-brew methods yamahai and kimoto, and the use of natural yeast. His full-body full-taste sake also stand out for their relatively high alcohol percentage, the 'complete fermentation' variety even reaching the highest level of 21-22%.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### TAMAGAWA YAMAHAI

NameTamagawa Yamahai玉川山廃BreweryKinoshita Shuzō木下酒造

**Type** junmai yamahai muroka nama genshu

aged 1 year

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 66%
Prefecture Kyoto
Alcohol percentage 19%
Sake Meter Value ??
Acidity ??

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



This slow-brew *yamahai* sake, taking up lacto bactylus and natural yeast present in the brewery, has a strong deep taste and an enchanting rice aroma. Since the re-invention and re-styling of Tamagawa, the brand sells out completely. The true delight of Tamagawa's outspoken taste and aroma, however, is best enjoyed after maturation. Accordingly Yoigokochi has arranged to age this *yamahai* unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted sake at the brewery at room temperature. Very limited. Drink at room temperature, or warmed up.

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#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **ŌTORA**

Name Ōtora 大虎

Brewery Chiyokotobuki Toraya 千代寿虎屋

Type junmai ōkarakuchi
Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 70%

Prefecture Yamagata

Alcohol percentage 15%
Sake Meter Value +10
Acidity 1.5

**Serving** Drink cold or warmed up

Storage Store dark and cool



A fine representative of a light & dry (tanrei karakuchi) type, very popular amongst Japanese businessmen, this sake is dry with light body and a very crisp and smooth finish. Drink cold or warmed up

Tracing its roots back to 1696, the Chiyokotobuki Toraya brewery is located in a region famous for its high quality water and rice. The brewery uses only locally grown rice.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### AKISHIKA ŌKARAKUCHI

Name Ōkarakuchi 大辛口

Brewery Akishika Shuzō 秋鹿酒造

junmai ginjō muroka

nama genshu ōkarakuchi

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 60%

Prefecture Osaka

Alcohol percentage 17%

Sake Meter Value +14~+19

Acidity 2.4

Serving Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



This ōkarakuchi (literally 'big dry mouth') sake from the brewery Akishika Shuzō is the complete negation of most dry sake available in Japan. Whereas the latter tend to be light and dry (tanrei karakuchi), Akishika dry sake is rich and profound, full-bodied, with pronounced acidity. This very dry ginjō sake is close to the dry end of the Sake Meter Value, but does not taste extremely dry because of the high levels of acidity and *umami*. It shows greater depths as it ages. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, undiluted. Drink at all temperatures.

Akishika Shuzō is one of a handful of breweries that follow the wine chateau concept. Practically all the rice used is grown right around the brewery by the owner himself and about 20 contracted local farmers. It was founded in 1886 and has under the present owner/headbrewer Oku Hiroaki acquired itself a reputation amongst connoisseurs of a brewery making top-quality sake with an outspoken dry and robust character. The brewery boasts a huge maturation storage, where Oku leisurely ages some of the best matured sake to be found. Akishika Shuzō limits itself to making strictly pure sake (junmaishu) without any additives.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **AKISHIKA**

Name Akishika 秋鹿

Brewery Akishika Shuzō 秋鹿酒造

**Type** junmai muroka nama genshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 70%
Prefecture Osaka
Alcohol percentage 18%
Sake Meter Value +7
Acidity 2.4

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



Another example of Akishika Shuzō's dry and full-body sake, although not as dry as his 'big dry mouth' Ōkarakuchi brother. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, undiluted, Akishika is rich and profound in both taste and aroma. Drink at all temperatures.

Akishika Shuzō is one of a handful of breweries that follow the wine chateau concept. Practically all the rice used is grown right around the brewery by the owner himself and about 20 contracted local farmers. It was founded in 1886 and has under the present owner/headbrewer Oku Hiroaki acquired itself a reputation amongst connoisseurs of a brewery making top-quality sake with an outspoken dry and robust character. The brewery boasts a huge maturation storage, where Oku leisurely ages some of the best matured sake to be found. Akishika Shuzō limits itself to making strictly pure sake (junmaishu) without any additives.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **KATORI 90**

Name Katori 90 香取 90

Brewery Terada Honke 寺田本家

**Type** junmai kimoto muroka shizenshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 90%
Prefecture Chiba
Alcohol percentage 15%
Sake meter value +5
Acidity 3.5

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



Sake as it was made a few centuries ago. True 'liquid rice' in taste, colour and aroma. All ingredients and elements are pre-modern: organic rice, natural yeast, hand-picked kōji, slow-brew *kimoto*, unfiltered. The '90' in the name is the polishing percentage and indicates that the rice was also polished in a pre-modern way, merely 10%. All this results in a very strong rice bran taste and lactobacillus acidity. Drink at all temperatures.

Also available in a very limited *nama genshu* (unpasteurised and undiluted) version.

The Terada Honke brewery was founded around 1675 and they have returned to early modern and medieval brewing methods. Easiest the most radical brewery of Japan, modern machinery has been done away with and natural, organic and handwork are the new keywords. Accordingly Terada Honke is one of the very few breweries that does not use any cultivated yeast or kōji, relying solely on the natural yeast culture of their brewery and hand-picked kōji. Most of the production is fermented in the slow-brew *kimoto* method where no lactic acid is added to the starter (*moto*). The rice used is organic. The water comes from the natural well inside the brewery.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **KATORI 90 NAMA GENSHU**

Name Katori 90 Nama Genshu 香取 90 生原酒

Brewery Terada Honke 寺田本家

**Type** junmai kimoto muroka

nama genshu shizenshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 90%
Prefecture Chiba
Alcohol percentage 18%
Sake meter value +5
Acidity 3.5

Serving Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



This is the unpasteurised and undiluted (*nama genshu*) version of Katori 90. Sake as it was made a few centuries ago. True 'liquid rice' in taste, colour and aroma. All ingredients and elements are premodern: organic rice, natural yeast, slow-brew *kimoto*, unfiltered. The '90' in the name is the polishing percentage and indicates that the rice was also polished in a pre-modern way, merely 10%. All this results in a very strong rice bran taste and lactobacillus acidity. Drink at all temperatures.

This unpasteurised and undiluted version is extremely limited (Yoigokochi only!) and needs to be prereserved.

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#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **UMETSU NO KIMOTO 80**

Name Umetsu no Kimoto 80 梅津の生酛 80

Brewery Umetsu Shuzō 梅津酒造

**Type** junmai kimoto muroka nama genshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 80%
Prefecture Tottori
Alcohol percentage 19%
Sake meter value +12
Acidity 3.1

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



A rare pre-modern sake from one of Japan's most stubborn brewers. No yeast and lactic acid added, letting nature do its work in a slow-brew *kimoto* method. The rice is polished merely 20%, resulting in a deep complex taste, a strong rice aroma, and a long finish. This sake acquired its impressive staunch quality and its truffle-like aroma only recently, when a yeast variety took over in the brewery that was very resilient and made for an extremely long fermentation. Dry and full-body. Drink at all temperatures, but in line with the spirit of its maker, try at least once heated.

The Umetsu Honke brewery was founded around 1865 and is located on the Japan Sea side coast. It is in essence a one-man enterprise, run by fifth-generation owner/brewer Umetsu Masasuke, who has implemented a brewing schedule which allows him to also enjoy family life. In line with the famous credo of his mentor Uehara Hiroshi – *Sake wa junmai, kan nara sara ni yoshi* (Sake is best when pure, and even better when heated) – Umetsu has ceded from the Japan's Brewery Association and instead joined the 100% Pure Sake Breweries Association, and is a true 'hot sake' ambassador.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **TAE NO HANA 90**

Name Tae no Hana 90 妙の華 90

Brewery Moriki Shuzōjō 森喜酒造場

Type junmai kimoto muroka

nama genshu shizenshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 90%
Prefecture Mie
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake meter value +5
Acidity 1.9

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures

Storage Store dark and cool



The ultimate proof that fine, balanced sake can be made from almost unpolished rice. 'Challenge', mentions the label, and it indeed took them eight long years to get it right. Pre-modern *kimoto* slow-brew, making for a relatively dry sake with layers of taste. Unpasteurised, unfiltered, undiluted, made with organic rice. Starting with full-bodied rich umami and ending with refreshing apple and rice bran acidity. Drink at all temperatures.

The Moriki Shuzōjō brewery was founded in 1897 but despite its long history was only barely kept alive by the enormous efforts of the owner/headbrewer couple Moriki Hideki and Rumiko. They have turned a run-of-the-mill local brewery into a bastion of pure sake and traditional brewing methods. As equal partners, the line-up of sake for which Rumiko bears final responsibility comes under the name 'Rumiko no Sake' (and a famous manga-esque label), Hideki's bear the name 'Hanabusa'.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **KINKAME 80**

Name Kinkame 80 金亀 80 生原酒

Brewery Okamura Honke 岡村本家

**Type** junmai muroka nama genshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 80%
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake meter value -10
Acidity 2.8

Serving Drink cold or warmed up
Storage Store in refrigeration



Full-body sweet sake from the small traditional brewery Okamura Honke. Only slightly polished, making for a true 'rice wine' with a strong rice aroma and colour (yellow). Sweet like candy, but with balancing acidity. This sweet full-rice taste and aroma make the unpasteurised and undiluted variety of the 80 stand out not merely in the high-quality Kinkame *junmaishu* series but amongst all other sake in Japan and, moreover, make it into one of the few sweet sake that can also be enjoyed warm.

Okamura Honke is a small artisanal brewery founded in 1854 in the castle town of Hikone. It is the brewery with the most radical but simple way of categorising its products. All sake are merely named by a colour and a number ranging from 40 up to 90. The former is nothing more than the colour of the bottle, the latter corresponds to the polishing rate. Thus the official name of this sake is 'White 80', although there are often two versions of each sake, the one pasteurised and diluted, the other unpasteurised and undiluted.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **SOMA NO TENGU**

Name Soma no Tengu 杣の天狗

Brewery Uehara Shuzō 上原酒造

junmai ginjō muroka **Type** 

nama genshu usunigori

**Content** 300 ml, 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 59%
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake meter value +4
Acidity 1.7

**Serving** Drink at all temperatures, shake

before serving

Storage Store dark and cool



This is an unpasteurized and undiluted sake (*nama genshu*) which still contains the finest part of the fermentation sediment resulting in a cloudy (*nigori*) colour and a very delicate rice fragrance. While being on the dry side, the texture is velvety with a creamy aftertaste. This ginjō sake combines very well with fish and shellfish. Drink cold or slightly warmed up. Do not forget to shake the bottle before serving, otherwise all the sediment will remain at the bottom of the bottle.

Uehara Shuzō was founded in 1862. The brewery has returned to traditional brewing methods and also because of its colossal wooden press looks like a true sake brewery museum. One of the few cradles of traditional sake brewing, it mainly produces slow-brew *yamahai*, natural yeast, slowly pressed, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted sake.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **FURŌSEN NAKAGUMI**

Furōsen Name 不老泉中汲み

Nakagumi

Brewery Uehara Shuzō 上原酒造

junmai yamahai ginjō

muroka nama genshu

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 55%
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake meter value +1
Acidity 2.0

**Serving** Preferably drink warmed up

Storage Store dark and cool



This limited luxurious *ginjō* sake is made solely of sake pressed during the middle and most balanced part of the pressing process (*nakagumi*). This pure natural product has the most beautiful rice aroma of all sake, but the magic soft fragrance only comes out when heated, so especially for this marvellous sake we created a category of 'Warm Sake'. Whereas most sake on the dry side can be heated, this one needs to be heated to enjoy its full but hidden potential. Slow-brew *yamahai*, natural yeast, slowly pressed, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted. Drink warm!

Uehara Shuzō was founded in 1862. The brewery has returned to traditional brewing methods and also because of its colossal wooden press looks like a true sake brewery museum. One of the few cradles of traditional sake brewing, it mainly produces slow-brew *yamahai*, natural yeast, slowly pressed, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted sake.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **YANWARI**

**Name** Yanwari やんわり

Brewery Kinoshita Shuzō 木下酒造

**Type** junmai yamahai

aged 2 years

Content 720 ml
Rice polishing rate 66%
Prefecture Kyoto
Alcohol percentage 12%
Sake Meter Value +3
Acidity 1.7

Serving Preferably drink warm
Storage Store dark and cool



A soft, light and relaxed (*yanwari*) low-alcohol sake from the English head-brewer who usually makes more hefty sake and does not mind the alcohol level passing 20%. Like the monkey on the label, you want to enjoy this sake heated. Slow-brew *yamahai*, natural yeast, slightly dry. Drink warm.

Kinoshita Shuzō is a small-scale brewery on the Japan Sea Coast side of Kyoto Prefecture founded in 1842. It successfully managed to position itself in the spotlights by simultaneously bringing in Englishman Philip Harper, who thus became the first foreign master brewer ( $t\bar{o}ji$ ), and introducing a revolutionary label design. Head-brewer Harper implemented traditional brewing methods, such as the slow-brew methods yamahai and kimoto, and the use of natural yeast. His full-body full-taste sake also stand out for their relatively high alcohol percentage, the 'complete fermentation' variety even reaching the highest level of 21-22%.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **TARUMARU**

Name Tarumaru 樽丸

Brewery Miyoshino Jōzō 美吉野醸造

Type junmai taruzake
Content 300 ml and 720 ml

Rice polishing rate 70%
Prefecture Nara
Alcohol percentage 15%
Sake Meter Value +2
Acidity 2.5

Serving Drink cold

Storage Store dark and cool



Young and fresh sake, briefly matured in a wooden cask. The brewery is located in Yoshino, the mountain village known as the best producer of cedar-wood casks. In the pre-modern period top-quality Yoshino cedar casks were developed to transport sake by ship from the production centres of West Japan to the consumption centre of Edo (now Tokyo). The attractive cedar aroma is perfectly in balance with the fresh and full qualities of this young and pure sake. Store dark and cool. Drink cold.

Miyoshino Jōzō is an extremely small-scale family brewery, which re-started at the present location in 1912. At the moment the brewery is pretty much a one-man enterprise, run by the young brewer Hashimoto Teruaki, enabling him to do whatever he feels like. This has resulted in various one-tank-only experiments, which have put this small brewery in the spotlight of sake lovers' interest. Almost without exception the Hanatomoe sake brands are pure, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted, and most are made with natural yeast. The brewery is located in the village of Yoshino, Japan's most famous cherry-blossom viewing spot, but also well-known for Yoshino cedar wood, used by most breweries for making cask-sake.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **TAIKO NO IZANAI 2002**

**Name** Taiko no Izanai 太古のいざない

Brewery Uehara Shuzō 上原酒造

junmai yamahai muroka nama

Type genshu shinsōsui-jikomi shizenshu

aged 14 years

Content720 mlRice polishing rate90%PrefectureShigaAlcohol percentage17%

Sake Meter Value unknown
Acidity unknown

**Serving** Drink at room temperature or

warmed up

**Storage** Store at room temperature



The one-and-only true 'seawater sake'. Whereas almost all of the seawater sake is made on the island of Shikoku, to be sold to tourists, these are so filtered and diluted that you can hardly tell the sea was involved. The sea water used for Taiko no Izanai was unfiltered and almost undiluted, thus you could not drink it for the first three years. Now after 14 years of aging it has acquired a harmonious balance between subdued salty taste, maturation and minimally polished organic rice. Completely unique (made only once...) heavy-taste sake. Slow-brew *yamahai*, natural yeast, slowly pressed, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted. Drink at room temperature or warm.

Uehara Shuzō was founded in 1862. The brewery has returned to traditional brewing methods and also because of its colossal wooden press looks like a true sake brewery museum. One of the few cradles of traditional sake brewing, it mainly produces slow-brew *yamahai*, natural yeast, slowly pressed, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted sake.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **AKISHIKA YAMAHAI 2009**

Akishika Yamahai 秋鹿山廃

2009 2009

**Brewery** Akishika Shuzō 秋鹿酒造

**Type** junmai muroka nama genshu

aged 7 years

Content720 mlRice polishing rate70%PrefectureOsakaAlcohol percentage18%Sake Meter Value+8

Acidity 2.1

Name

**Serving** Drink at room temperature or

warmed up

**Storage** Store at room temperature

An exclusive seven-year aged sake from West Japan's top brewery Akishika Shuzō. Early-modern slow-brew starter, unpasteurised, unfiltered and undiluted. Export only, extremely limited. A full-bodied dry sake with brown sugar aroma. The taste is complex with slight woody tones and a clean acidic finish. Drink at room temperature or warmed up.

Akishika Shuzō is one of a handful of breweries that follow the wine chateau concept. Practically all the rice used is grown right around the brewery by the owner himself and about 20 contracted local farmers. It was founded in 1886 and has under the present owner/headbrewer Oku Hiroaki acquired itself a reputation amongst connoisseurs of a brewery making top-quality sake with an outspoken dry and robust character. The brewery boasts a huge maturation storage, where Oku leisurely ages some of the best matured sake to be found. Akishika Shuzō limits itself to making strictly pure sake (junmaishu) without any additives.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **AKISHIKA 2003**

Name Akishika 2003 秋鹿古酒

Brewery Akishika Shuzō 秋鹿酒造

junmai muroka **Type** 

nama genshu koshu

aged 13 years

Content 720 ml

Rice polishing rate 70%

Prefecture Osaka

Alcohol percentage 18%

Sake meter value +5

Acidity 1.9

**Serving** Drink at room temperature or warmed

Storage Store on room temperature

A ridiculously exclusive 13-year matured sake (*koshu*) from Akishika. Combining tones of maturation and fruitiness, topped off by the delicate elegant aroma of long-matured Akishika sake. Moreover, a sake you can only enjoy in Europe, because we found this extremely limited-edition aged sake in the maturing storage of the best brewery in West Japan and have shipped it all here. Slightly dry and medium-bodied, it has a distinctive *koshu* feeling and aroma, but none of the caramel aftertaste which is typical of sake of this age. Unfiltered, unpasteurised and undiluted. Drink at room temperature or warmed.

Akishika Shuzō is one of a handful of breweries that follow the wine chateau concept. Practically all the rice used is grown right around the brewery by the owner himself and about 20 contracted local farmers. It was founded in 1886 and has under the present owner/headbrewer Oku Hiroaki acquired itself a reputation amongst connoisseurs of a brewery making top-quality sake with an outspoken dry and robust character. The brewery boasts a huge maturation storage, where Oku leisurely ages some of the best matured sake to be found. Akishika Shuzō limits itself to making strictly pure sake (junmaishu) without any additives.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **BIDEN 1999**

Name Biden 豊穣美田

**Brewery** Mii no Kotobuki 三井の寿

**Type** junmai yamahai koshu

aged 17 years

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Rice polishing rate 65%

Prefecture Fukuoka

Alcohol percentage 16%

Sake meter value -1

Acidity 2.0

**Serving** Drink at room temperature or slightly

warmed up

**Storage** Store at room temperature



Made from locally grown Yamadanishiki rice, fermented in the traditional *yamahai* method, and aged at room temperature, fifteen-year aged Biden is a soft and full-bodied *koshu*. With caramel tones typical to aged sake, it is good accompaniment for meat, as well as soy-sauce and miso seasoned, and even spicy dishes. Drink at room temperature or slightly warmed up.

Mii no Kotobuki (formerly known as Inoue Gōmei) is a brewery with strong ambition founded in 1922. On the basis of local Itoshima Yamadanishiki rice along with small-volume and slow-pace brewing, it produces the Mii no Kotobuki, Biden, and Eiden brands, which have built up a strong following amongst sake connoisseurs. Also noted for its Mii no Umeshu plum sake, for which this seventeen-year aged version of Biden is used as basis.

#### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **KOKIN 1990**

Name Kokin 古今

Brewery Kidoizumi shuzō 木戸泉酒造

junmai genshu koshu **Type** 

aged around 25 years

Content 720 ml
Rice polishing rate 60%
Prefecture Chiba
Alcohol percentage 18%
Sake Meter Value +1
Acidity 2.1

Storage Drink at room temperature
Storage Store at room temperature



Kokin is a luxurious digestive *koshu* (aged sake), a blend of three vintages around 25 years old, robust but very delicate. While being relatively light on the tongue it has an extremely long finish. Once you think the taste has disappeared, touch the top of your mouth and it will reappear. Some people may find similarities with certain types of cognac or whiskey, but the complexity of the taste is totally unique. Drink at room temperature.

Kidoizumi Shuzō - founded in 1879 - is the only brewery in Japan that uses the hot *yamahai* method. *Yamahai* is thought to be suitable only for cold places, but the brewery developed a method where large amounts of lacto bactylus cultivated on the premises are added to a starter kept at very high temperature. The result is a unique full body multi-layered taste. The brewery is also a pioneer in producing aged sake (*koshu*). Having started some sixty years ago with aging a large quantity of sake annually, it is one of the few breweries that has ample experience in maturing sake, can provide a steady supply of very long-aged sake, and even has the luxury of being able to make blends.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### **ŌMIJI KIJŌSHU 1978**

Name Ōmiji Kijōshu 近江路貴醸酒

Brewery Ōmi Shuzō 近江酒造

**Type** junmai koshu kijōshu

aged 38 years

Content 720 ml
Rice polishing rate 60%
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 17%
Sake meter value -38
Acidity 1.8

**Serving** Drink slightly chilled

**Storage** Store at room temperature



The perfect accompaniment to any dessert, whether fruit, cake, chocolate, nuts, or cheese. But also wonderful as aperitif or digestive, Ōmiji Kijōshu is a most versatile drink. The method by which *kijōshu* is prepared is quite similar to Port wine, but actually dates back to a 1000-years old recipe from the imperial palace. In the third stage of adding the main ingredients sake is added instead of brewing water, making the result more sweet and syrupy. Add to this an unheard-of maturation of 38 years, and you end up with a true explosion of taste, aroma and colour. An aroma reminiscent of port, a soft velvety touch, and a very long finish. While sweet it is not cloying at all. The aftertaste has caramel qualities, slightly bitter with a burnt feeling. Drink slightly chilled.

Ōmi Shuzō was founded in 1917 as the first modern brewery in the region. During the 1970s it participated in the endeavour to revive *kijōshu*, a very luxurious sake on the basis of a recipe that was used in the imperial palace more than thousand years ago.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

### SHISO UMESHU

**Name** Shiso Umeshu しそ梅酒

**Brewery** Mori no Kura 杜の蔵

Type junmai umeshu

**Content** 720 ml **Prefecture** Fukuoka

Alcohol percentage 9%

**Serving** Drink cold, either straight or on-the-

rocks

**Storage** Store at room temperature



Refreshing plum sake on the basis of 100% pure sake, local top-class Nankō plums, and red *shiso* leafs. The sweetness of the plums is balanced by the refreshing aroma of the *shiso*, which also contributes to the red colour. Drink ice-cold, either straight or on-the-rocks.

The Mori no Kura brewery was founded in 1898. It was one of the first breweries in Japan to adopt the policy of making only pure sake (*junmaishu*) without any additives. It is also well-known for its Komagura-series of matured sake.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **SUPPAI UMESHU**

Name Suppai Umeshu すっぱい

Brewery Heiwa Shuzō 平和酒造

Type umeshu

aged 3 years

Content 720 ml and 1.8 l

Prefecture Wakayama

Alcohol percentage 11%

**Serving** Drink cold, either straight or on-

the-rocks

**Storage** Store at room temperature



Suppai (which means 'sour') is a new plum sake from Wakayama Prefecture, the plum heartland of Japan. The Heiwa Shuzō brewery has its own orchards and sticks to the principle of slow-brew. For this exquisite and full-taste *umeshu*, three times more plums have been used than usual and the plums have been kept in the sake very long, giving extra plum taste and aroma and making it extra sour. Aged for 3 years. Drink ice-cold, either straight or on-the-rocks.

Heiwa Shuzō (Peace Brewery) has prewar roots but made a re-start after the war. Like a true Wakayama brewery, it produces both sake and plum sake. Recently the brewery has attracted nationwide attention because of the new *junmaishu* line of Kido and the luxurious plum sake and other fruit sake series called Tsuru-ume.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### MII NO UMESHU

**Name** Mii no Umeshu 三井の梅酒

**Brewery** Mii no Kotobuki 三井の寿

Type junmai umeshu

**Content** 300 ml, 720 ml and 1.8 l

Prefecture Fukuoka
Alcohol percentage 10%

**Serving** Drink ice-cold, straight or on-the-rocks

**Storage** Store at room temperature



A deep-tasting plum sake made on the basis of seventeen-year aged Biden sake. The sweetness of the plums is compensated by its characteristic almond-like aroma, which emanates from the plum pits. Mii no Umeshu provides a very agreeable balance between sweet and sour. Pure, fruity and refreshing. Drink ice-cold, either straight or on-the-rocks.

Mii no Kotobuki (formerly known as Inoue Gōmei) is a brewery with a strong ambition founded in 1922. On the basis of local Itoshima Yamadanishiki rice along with small-volume and slow-pace brewing, it produces the Mii no Kotobuki, Biden, and Eiden brands, which have built up a strong following amongst sake connoisseurs.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### YUZU

Name Yuzu ゆず

Brewery Heiwa Shuzō 平和酒造

Type yuzushu
Content 720 ml
Prefecture Wakayama

Alcohol percentage 7%

**Serving** Drink cold, either straight or

on-the-rocks

Storage Store dark



Yuzu, the Japanese citrus fruit so popular recently in Western restaurants, now as a refreshing drink based on sake. Consisting for 50% of pure and sour yuzu juice, this yuzu-sake is extremely refreshing and completely cleans your palate. Drink on a hot sunny afternoon, as an aperitif, to go with a dessert, as a surprising ingredient of a cocktail, or whenever you need a refreshing kick. Serve ice-cold, either straight or on-the-rocks, to have the best balance between sweet and sour.

Heiwa Shuzō (Peace Brewery) has prewar roots but made a re-start after the war. Like a true Wakayama brewery, it produces both sake and plum sake. Recently the brewery has attracted nationwide attention because of the new *junmaishu* line of Kido and the luxurious plum sake and other fruit sake series called Tsuru-ume.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **HOSHIKO 2009**

Name Hoshiko 2008 星子 2009 Brewery Puramu Shokuhin プラム食品

Type plum liqueur

aged 7 years

Content 720 ml

Prefecture Wakayama

Alcohol percentage 20%

**Serving** Drink cold, either straight or on-the-rocks

**Storage** Store at room temperature



A very exclusive plum liqueur with a unique and deep taste.

Based on a secret recipe developed by famous bartender

Danny Aikawa after decades of experimenting and perfecting.

The taste is a combination of the sweet and sour of the top-class

Nankō plums, the depth of the 7-year aging, and the accents of the secret spice mix (cloves?).

Drink cold, either straight or on-the-rocks. Good for cocktails too.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **NIGORI WINE**

#### SAN SOUFRE RURALE DELA BLANC 2014

Name Nigori Wine にごりワイン

Brewery Hitomi Winery ヒトミワイナリー

Type Organic cloudy white wine

Grape variety Delaware
Content 750 ml
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 10%

Serving Drink cold



An outspoken natural cloudy white wine. No sulphites, yeast or other additives added. Final fermentation in bottle, no filtration. A journey back to the roots of wine-making, with the surprising result of a wine that is both fruity and dry. Refreshing, slightly sparkling with medium body. Combines well with both fish and meat dishes. Drink cold.

Hitomi Winery is a relatively new winery on the east side of Biwako, Japan's biggest lake in the central part of the country. Established 30 years ago by a successful fashion maker who decided to follow his true passion, Hitomi Winery has developed into a centre of organic wine making. The brewery produces a wide variety of some 40 different wines, all limited editions.

### YOIGOKOCHI SAKE IMPORTERS

#### **DELA SOUL 2014**

Name DeLa Soul

Brewery Hitomi Winery ヒトミワイナリー

**Type** Dry white wine

Grape variety Delaware
Content 750 ml
Prefecture Shiga
Alcohol percentage 10%

Serving Drink cold



Complete respect for this streetwise experiment. An outspoken mineral and dry white wine, but on the basis of Delaware grapes, so fruity tones and aroma as well. Minimal sulphites added, no filtration, no clarification. Thoroughly refuting the superstition that Labrasca-grape types of wine do not easily pair with food. Combines well with a wide range of vegetable and fish dishes. Full-body, but refreshing. Drink cold.

Hitomi Winery is a relatively new winery on the east side of Biwako, Japan's biggest lake in the central part of the country. Established 30 years ago by a successful fashion maker who decided to follow his true passion, Hitomi Winery has developed into a centre of organic wine making. The brewery produces a wide variety of some 40 different wines, all limited editions.