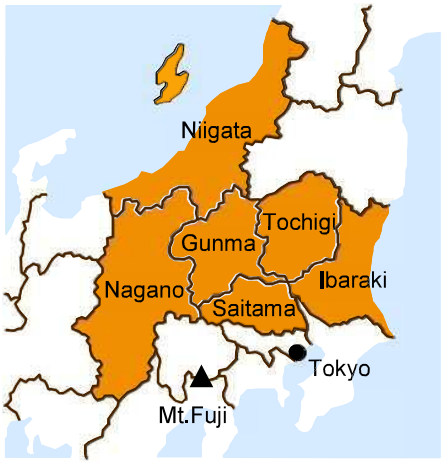
Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025

(by the Kanto-Shinetsu Regional Taxation Bureau of the National Tax Agency of Japan)

Overview

Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards are the traditional sake awards held by the Kanto-Shinetsu Regional Taxation Bureau of the National Tax Agency of Japan, which has jurisdiction for the Kanto-Shinetsu region's six prefectures (Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Niigata and Nagano). The awards were first held in 1965 and the most recent awards held in 2025 marked the 96th.



Six prefectures in the Kanto-Shinetsu region of Japan

The objective of holding these awards is, through evaluating the quality of sake, to promote the advancement and development of sake brewing technology, to improve the quality of sake brewed in Kanto-Shinetsu region's six prefectures, and to contribute to the sound development of the sake industry.

The most recent awards (Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025) consisted of three categories. The first category was for *Ginjo-shu* sake, a type of sake that has a fruity flavor and has been described as a work of art among sake. The second category was for *Junmai Ginjo-shu* sake, a beautiful combination of rich and fruity flavor of *Ginjo-shu* sake with fragrant and tasteful flavor of *Junmai-shu* sake. The last category was for *Junmai-shu* sake that is made solely from high quality rice and has a fragrant and complex flavor.

The six prefectures of the Kanto-Shinetsu region are blessed with outstanding natural beauty and best climate conditions for brewing sake. For the Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025, 121 products were exhibited in the *Ginjo-shu* category, 150 in the *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category and 79 in the *Junmai-shu* category from many traditional sake breweries (*Meijo-kura*) in Kanto-Shinetsu region.

The judging panel, who used all their senses to evaluate the quality of the exhibits, carried out the first and second round of judging on October 2nd, 3rd and October 9th 2025. Following a strict but fair judging process, NAKAMURA Minoru, the Regional Commissioner of the Kanto-Shinetsu Regional Taxation Bureau, awarded Excellence Prizes to 41 manufacturers in the *Ginjo-shu* category, 51 in the *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category, and 29 in the *Junmai-shu* category that achieved excellent scores. In addition, the manufacturers that achieved the highest score in each category were awarded Grand Prizes, while the next two highest-scoring manufacturers in each category were awarded Special Prizes.

Judging method

The judges, who are experts in evaluating the quality of sake and came from the six prefectures in the Kanto-Shinetsu region, are researchers from public organizations for sake brewing technology, brewmasters, researchers from National Research Institute of Brewing and technical officers from the Kanto-Shinetsu Regional Taxation Bureau. The judges used all their senses to perform strict but fair evaluations of the quality of sake.

Review of 2025

The overall evaluation of the sake submitted to each category was as follows.

In the *Ginjo-shu* category, the lineup featured sakes with the

characteristic *ginjo* aroma — refined and richly fragrant — paired with a clear, delicate flavor profile.

In the *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category, there were many highly accomplished sakes with well-rounded balances of aroma and flavor, featuring fruity, floral or refreshing aromas complemented by the rich flavor of the rice used.

In the *Junmai-shu* category, a wide range of styles were identified: those with fresh, light flavors; those with a fruity character and well-balanced sweetness and acidity; and those with a robust umami derived from the rice, yet featuring a pronounced acidity that delivers a clean, crisp finish.

Results of the Judging

Please see Appendix.

Appendix

List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Ginjo-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Grand Prize	Ibaraki	URAZATO SHUZOUTEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP COMPANY	KIRITSUKUBA	URAZATO Chikara

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Special Prize	Ibaraki	BUYU CORPORATION	BUYU	HOSAKA Daijiro
	Niigata	OFUKU SHUZOU CO., LTD.	OFUKU MASAMUNE	NAKANO Yoshikazu

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Ibaraki	MEIRISHURUI CORPORATION	FUKUSHOUGUN	HIRAYAMA Takashi
	Ibaraki	YOSHIKUBO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	IPPIN	SUZUKI Tadayuki
	Ibaraki	MORISHIMA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MORISHIMA	MORISHIMA Shoichiro
	Ibaraki	AOKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	GOKEIJI	YANAI Kazuhiro
	Tochigi	UTSUNOMIYA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SHIKISAKURA	TAMAYAMA Kazuyoshi
	Tochigi	HOKKAN SAKE BREWING CO., LTD.	HOKKAN	KAMIYOSHIHARA Masato
	Tochigi	TSUJIZENBEI SHOTEN CO., LTD.	SAKURAGAWA	TSUJI Hiroyuki
	Tochigi	WATANABE SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KYOKUKO	WATANABE Hidenori
	Tochigi	MORITO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	JUICHIMASAMUNE	OHASHI Masanori
	Gunma	MACHIDA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	MACHIDASYUZOU MAX DAIGINJO	KIMURA Takatoshi
	Gunma	SHIBASAKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	FUNAOTAKI	FUKUSHIMA Takashi
	Gunma	KONDO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	AKAGISAN	TAKEUCHI Futoshi
	Gunma	SEITOKU MEIJO CO., LTD.	HOOSEITOKU	TAKIZAWA Mikio
	Gunma	ASAMA SHUZOU CO., LTD. DAINIKOJO	HIGEN	FUKUHARA Yuga
	Gunma	KIMUSUME SHUZOU CORPORATION	KIMUSUME	YOSHIDA Kazuhiro
	Saitama	KAMAYA CO., LTD.	RIKISHI	MATSUNUMA Hiroaki
	Saitama	YOKOTA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	NIHONBASHI	SUGAWA Teruaki
	Saitama	YAOHONTEN CO., LTD.	CHICHIBUNISHIKI	KIMURA Naoyuki
	Niigata	ISHIMOTO SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KOSHI NO KANBAI	TAKEUCHI Shinichi
	Niigata	DHC SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSINOBAIRI	TAKYU Kiminori
	Niigata	HIKI SHUZOU CORPORATION	TSURUNOTOMO	MARUTA Kosuke
	Niigata	KIRINZAN SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KIRINZAN	HASEGAWA Yoshiaki
	Niigata	ASAHI-SHUZOU SAKE BREWING CO., LTD. ASAHIGURA	KUBOTA	YAMAGA Motoyoshi
	Niigata	HAKURO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	HAKURO	OGAWA Kazuki
	Niigata	MASUKAGAMI CORPORATION	MASUKAGAMI	TAJIMA Kozo
	Niigata	KIKUSUI SAKE CO., LTD. SETSUGOROGURA	KIKUSUI	IKARASHI Yuta
	Niigata	KIKUSUI SAKE CO., LTD. NINOUJIGURA	KIKUSUI	ABE Yuichi

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List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Ginjo-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Niigata	TAKACHIYO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOHRYU	TAKAHASHI Ryo
	Niigata	TAKANOI SHUZOU CORPORATION	TAKANOI	KIMURA Akihiro
	Niigata	HAKKAISAN BREWERY CO., LTD.	HAKKAISAN	MURAYAMA Masatoshi
	Niigata	TSUNAN SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	TSUNAN AI	TAKIZAWA Masaya
	Niigata	KUBIKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHIJINOKOUBAI	YOSHIZAKI Tsukasa
	Niigata	TANAKA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	NOUTAKA	KOBAYASHI Yoshio
	Niigata	OBATA SHUZOU CORPORATION	MANOTSURU	KUDO Kenya
	Nagano	IMAISHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	WAKAMIDORI	KOMAMURA Koji
	Nagano	TODA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	DAIYAKIKU	TAKAHASHI Yusuke
	Nagano	ONOSHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	YOAKEMAE	KIYOTO Yukihiro
	Nagano	DAISEKKEI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	DAISEKKEI	NAGASE Mamoru

Appendix

List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Grand Prize	Tochigi	TONOIKE SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	SANRAN	ONO Makoto

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Special Prize	Tochigi	TORAYA HONTEN CO., LTD.	SHICHISUI	TENMAYA Makoto
	Gunma	NAGAI SAKE INC.	MIZUBASHO	GOTO Kenji

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Ibaraki	ISOKURA SAKE BREWERY	INASATO HIBIKOREKOUJITU	ITO Masakazu
	Ibaraki	MORISHIMA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MORISHIMA	MORISHIMA Shoichiro
	Ibaraki	URAZATO SHUZOUTEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP COMPANY	KIRITSUKUBA	URAZATO Chikara
	Ibaraki	BUYU CORPORATION	BUYU	HOSAKA Daijiro
	Ibaraki	RAIFUKU SHUZOU CO., LTD.	RAIFUKU	KANO Ryosuke
	Tochigi	INOUE SEIKICHI CO., LTD.	SAWAHIME	SATO Tamotsu
	Tochigi	HOKKAN SAKE BREWING CO., LTD.	HOKKAN	KAMIYOSHIHARA Masato
	Tochigi	DAIICHI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KAIKA	SAITO Morihiro
	Tochigi	SOHOMARE SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	SOHOMARE	AKITA Toru
	Tochigi	WATANABE SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KYOKUKO	WATANABE Hidenori
	Tochigi	SENKIN CO., LTD.	SENKIN	USUI Masato
	Tochigi	TOMIKAWA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	CHUAI	TAKENOUCHI Hiroshi
	Tochigi	MORITO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SHOUJINZAWA	OHASHI Masanori
	Gunma	MACHIDA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	MACHIDASYUZOU PREMIUM	KIMURA Takatoshi
	Gunma	SHIBASAKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	FUNAOTAKI	FUKUSHIMA Takashi
	Gunma	HIJIRI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KANTO NO HANA	YOSHIMOTO Yutaka
	Gunma	MATSUYA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	RUKA	MATSUBARA Hiroyuki
	Gunma	ASAMA SHUZOU CO., LTD. DAINIKOJO	HIGEN	FUKAYA Keisuke
	Gunma	KIMUSUME SHUZOU CORPORATION	SAKUYABI	YOSHIDA Kazuhiro
	Saitama	FUJISAKI SOBE SHOUTEN CO., LTD.	NAGATORO	AKIIKE Takashi
	Niigata	HIKI SHUZOU CORPORATION	TSURUNOTOMO	MARUTA Kosuke
	Niigata	KIRINZAN SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KIRINZAN	HASEGAWA Yoshiaki
	Niigata	KIKUSUI SAKE CO., LTD. SETSUGOROGURA	KIKUSUI	SAITO Hiroshi
	Niigata	HAKURYU SHUZOU SAKE-BREWING CO., LTD.	HAKURYU	SHIRAI Shinji
	Niigata	SHIRATAKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	JOZEN MIZUNOGOTOSHI	MATSUMOTO Takaki
	Niigata	TAKANOI SHUZOU CORPORATION	TAKANOI	KIMURA Akihiro
	Niigata	HAKKAISAN BREWERY CO., LTD.	HAKKAISAN	MURAYAMA Masatoshi

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List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Niigata	TAIYOU SHUZOU CO., LTD.	TAIYOUZAKARI	HIRATA Shu
	Niigata	MIYAO SAKE BREWING CO., LTD.	SHIMEHARITSURU	TOGASHI Tsuneo
	Niigata	KUBIKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHIJINOKOUBAI	YOSHIZAKI Tsukasa
	Niigata	HENMI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SHINRYOU	HENMI Akimasa
	Niigata	HOKUSETSU SHUZOU CORPORATION	HOKUSETSU MIZUKI	CHIKUZEN Yoshimi
	Nagano	IMAISHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	GOGAKU	KOMAMURA Koji
	Nagano	KAMETAYA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	ALPS MASAMUNE	ITO Daiji
	Nagano	SHINSHUMEIJO CO., LTD.	SHUHOU KIKUZAKARI	KUDO Arimichi
	Nagano	SAKENUNOYAHONKIN SHUZOU CO., LTD.	HONKIN	MIYASAKA Kotaro
	Nagano	MAIHIME CORPORATION	SUIRO	ISOZAKI Kunihiro
	Nagano	KASUGA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	INOKASHIRA	URUSHIDO Takahiko
	Nagano	CHOSEISHA SAKE CORPORATION	SHINANOTSURU	KITAHARA Takeshi
	Nagano	SENJO CO., LTD.	KUROMATSU SENJO	YANAGIDAIRA Masato
	Nagano	YONEZAWA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	IMANISHIKI	SAKAGUCHI Shunya
	Nagano	TANAKAYA BREWING CO., LTD.	MIZUO	KUBOTA Takemitsu
	Nagano	MARUSE SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	IKIOIMASAMUNE	SEKI Shinji
	Nagano	DAISEKKEI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	DAISEKKEI	NAGASE Mamoru
	Nagano	TSUCHIYA SHUZOUTEN CORPORATION	KAMENOUMI	SUZUKI Shunji
	Nagano	TOTSUKA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KANCHIKU	NISHIMURA Kazuhiko
	Nagano	NAKAZEN BREWING CO., LTD.	NAKANORISAN	YAMAGUCHI Takashi
	Nagano	YUKAWA SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KISOJI	YUGAWA Shinichi

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List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Junmai-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2025

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Grand Prize	Nagano	YUKAWA SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KISOJI	YUGAWA Shinichi

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Special Prize	Ibaraki	URAZATO SHUZOUTEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP COMPANY	URAZATO	URAZATO Chikara
	Niigata	KIMINOI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KIMINOI	HAYATSU Hiroshi

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Ibaraki	RAIFUKU SHUZOU CO., LTD.	RAIFUKU	KANO Ryosuke
	Tochigi	SOHOMARE SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	SOHOMARE	AKITA Toru
	Tochigi	TONOIKE SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	BOU	ONO Makoto
	Tochigi	TENTAKA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	TENTAKA	OMIYA Kanemitsu
	Tochigi	WATANABE SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KYOKUKO	WATANABE Hidenori
	Gunma	MAKINO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	OSAKAZUKI	MAKINO Kenjiro
	Gunma	NAGAI SAKE INC.	TANIGAWADAKE	GOTO Kenji
	Gunma	ASAMA SHUZOU CO., LTD. DAINIKOJO	HIGEN	WADA Kyohei
	Saitama	FUJISAKI SOBE SHOUTEN CO., LTD.	NAGATORO	AKIIKE Takashi
	Niigata	ASAHI-SHUZOU SAKE BREWING CO., LTD. ASAHIGURA	ASAHIYAMA	YAMAGA Motoyoshi
	Niigata	ASAHI-SHUZOU SAKE BREWING CO., LTD. SHORAIGURA	ASAHIYAMA	OHASHI Ryosaku
	Niigata	MOROHASHI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHINO KAGETORA	ASAI Masaru
	Niigata	YOSHINOGAWA CO., LTD.	YOSHINOGAWA	FUJINO Masatsugu
	Niigata	YUKITSUBAKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHINOYUKITSUBAKI	IIZUKA Taiichi
	Niigata	TAKACHIYO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MAKIHATA	TAKAHASHI Ryo
	Niigata	TAKANOI SHUZOU CORPORATION	TAKANOI	KIMURA Akihiro
	Niigata	TSUNAN SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	GO VINO	TAKIZAWA Masaya
	Niigata	TAIYOU SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MUSO	HIRATA Shu
	Niigata	KUBIKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHIJINOKOUBAI	YOSHIZAKI Tsukasa
	Niigata	TAKEDA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	KATAFUNE	TAKEDA Shigenori
	Nagano	IMAISHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	WAKAMIDORI	KOMAMURA Koji
	Nagano	KAMETAYA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	ALPS MASAMUNE	ITO Daiji
	Nagano	MIYASAKA BREWING CO., LTD. MASUMIFUJIMIKURA	MASUMI	NAKANO Atsushi
	Nagano	KADOGUCHI SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	HOKKO MASAMUNE	MURAMATSU Yuya
	Nagano	MARUSE SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	IKIOIMASAMUNE	SEKI Shinji
	Nagano	DAISEKKEI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	DAISEKKEI	NAGASE Mamoru