Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2026

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

Overview

The 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 2026 marked the 97th.



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 the 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 2026) 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 2026, 113 products were exhibited in the *Ginjo-shu* category, 137 in the *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category and 82 in the *Junmai-shu* category from many traditional sake breweries (*Meijo-kura*) in the 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 September 17th, 18th and October 1st 2026. Following a strict but fair judging process, SATO Dai, the Regional Commissioner of the Kanto-Shinetsu Regional Taxation Bureau, awarded Excellence Prizes to 39 manufacturers in the *Ginjo-shu* category, 46 in the *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category, and 30 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 the 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 2026

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

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

richly fragrant aroma with fruity notes, paired with a clear, delicate flavor profile.

In the *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category, there were many sakes featuring highly refined flavor profiles, each with a well-rounded balance of fruity, floral, or refreshing aromas and the rich flavor of the rice used.

In the *Junmai-shu* category, a wide range of flavor profiles were recognized: 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 2026

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	MORISHIMA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MORISHIMA	MORISHIMA Shoichiro
	Niigata	TAKACHIYO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	TAKACHIYO	TAKAHASHI Ryo

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Ibaraki	RAIFUKUSHUZOU CO., LTD.	RAIFUKU	KANO Ryosuke
	Tochigi	UTSUNOMIYA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SHIKISAKURA	TAMAYAMA Kazuyoshi
	Tochigi	HOKKAN SAKE BREWING CO., LTD.	HOKKAN	KAMIYOSHIHARA Masato
	Tochigi	TSUJIZEMBEI SHOUTEN CO., LTD.	SAKURAGAWA	TSUJI Hiroyuki
	Tochigi	TONOIKE SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	SANRAN	ONO Makoto
	Tochigi	TENTAKA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	TENTAKA	OMIYA Kanemitsu
	Tochigi	WATANABE SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KYOKUKO	WATANABE Hidenori
	Gunma	KONDO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	AKAGISAN	TAKEUCHI Futoshi
	Gunma	SEITOKU MEIJO CO., LTD.	HOOSEITOKU	TAKIZAWA Mikio
	Gunma	ASAMASHUZOU CO., LTD. DAINIKOJO	HIGEN	KIKUCHI Michiro
	Saitama	YOKOTA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	NIHONBASHI	SUGAWA Teruaki
	Saitama	SEIUN SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SEIUN	YOSHIHARA Takuo
	Saitama	KITANISHI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	BUNRAKU	MURAKAMI Daisuke
	Niigata	ISHIMOTO SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KOSHI NO KANBAI	HIGUCHI Muneyoshi
	Niigata	KIRINZAN SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KIRINZAN	HASEGAWA Yoshiaki
	Niigata	ASAHI-SHUZOU SAKE BREWING CO., LTD. ASAHIGURA	KUBOTA	OHASHI Ryosaku
	Niigata	OFUKU SHUZOU CO., LTD.	OFUKUMASAMUNE	NAKANO Yoshikazu
	Niigata	MOROHASHI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHINO KAGETORA	ASAI Masaru
	Niigata	KIKUSUI SAKE CO., LTD. NINOUJIGURA	KIKUSUI	SAITO Hiroshi
	Niigata	HAKURYU SHUZOU SAKE-BREWING CO., LTD.	HAKURYU	SHIRAI Shinji
	Niigata	AOKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KAKUREI	TAKAHASHI Kazuei
	Niigata	TAMAGAWA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	ECHIGO YUKIKURA	WADA Toshikazu
	Niigata	TSUNAN SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	TSUNAN AI	TAKIZAWA Masaya
	Niigata	MIYAO SAKE BREWING CO., LTD.	SHIMEHARITSURU	TOGASHI Tsuneo
	Niigata	HOKUSETSU SHUZOU CORPORATION	HOKUSETSU	OGURA Kyohei
	Nagano	IMAISHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	WAKAMIDORI	KOMAMURA Koji
	Nagano	SHUSENKURANO CO., LTD.	KAWANAKAJIMAGENBU	CHINO Mariko

Appendix

List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Ginjo-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2026

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Nagano	NISHIIIDA SHUZOUTEN	SHINANO HIKARI	IIDA Kazumoto
	Nagano	MARUNAGA SHUZOUJO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	TAKANAMI	NAGAHARA Motoharu
	Nagano	SHINSHUMEIJO CO., LTD.	SHUHOU KIKUZAKARI	KUDO Arimichi
	Nagano	ONOSHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	YOAKEMAE	KIYOTO Yukihiro
	Nagano	KADOGUCHI SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	HOKKO MASAMUNE	MURAMATSU Yuya
	Nagano	TANAKAYA BREWING CO., LTD.	MIZUO	KUBOTA Takemitsu
	Nagano	DAISEKKEI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	DAISEKKEI	NAGASE Mamoru
	Nagano	SAKUNOHANA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SAKUNOHANA	INOUE Tatsuyuki
	Nagano	TAKESHIGEHONKE SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MISONOTAKE	SHIGETA Norikazu

Appendix

List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2026

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Grand Prize	Nagano	IMAISHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	GOGAKU	KOMAMURA Koji

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Special Prize	Niigata	SHIRATAKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	JOZEN MIZUNOGOTOSHI	MATSUMOTO Takaki
	Nagano	ONOSHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	YOAKEMAE	KIYOTO Yukihiro

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Ibaraki	MORISHIMA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MORISHIMA	MORISHIMA Shoichiro
	Ibaraki	URAZATO SHUZOUTEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP COMPANY	KIRITSUKUBA	URAZATO Chikara
	Ibaraki	BUYU CORPORATION	BUYU	HOSAKA Daijiro
	Ibaraki	RAIFUKUSHUZOU CO., LTD.	RAIFUKU	KANO Ryosuke
	Tochigi	INOUE SEIKICHI CO., LTD.	SAWAHIME	SATO Tamotsu
	Tochigi	HOKKAN SAKE BREWING CO., LTD.	HOKKAN	KAMIYOSHIHARA Masato
	Tochigi	TONOIKE SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	SANRAN	ONO Makoto
	Tochigi	TENTAKA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	TENTAKA	OMIYA Kanemitsu
	Tochigi	SENKIN CO., LTD.	SENKIN	USUI Masato
	Tochigi	MORITO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SHOUJINZAWA	OHASHI Masanori
	Gunma	NAGAI SAKE INC.	MIZUBASHO	GOTO Kenji
	Gunma	SHIMAOKA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	GUNMA IZUMI	SHIMAOKA Toshinori
	Gunma	MATSUYA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	RUKA	MATSUBARA Hiroyuki
	Gunma	ASAMASHUZOU CO., LTD. DAINIKOJO	ASAMAYAMA	KIKUCHI Michiro
	Gunma	KIMUSUME SHUZOU CORPORATION	SAKUYABI	YOSHIDA Kazuhiro
	Saitama	KAMAYA CO., LTD.	RIKISHI	MATSUNUMA Hiroaki
	Saitama	YOKOTA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	NIHONBASHI	SUGAWA Teruaki
	Saitama	MATSUOKA BREWING CO., LTD.	MIKADOMATSU	MATSUOKA Norio
	Niigata	MOROHASHI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHINO KAGETORA	ASAI Masaru
	Niigata	AOKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KAKUREI	TAKAHASHI Kazuei
	Niigata	HAKKAISAN BREWERY CO., LTD.	HAKKAISAN	MURAYAMA Masatoshi
	Niigata	MIYAO SAKE BREWING CO., LTD.	SHIMEHARITSURU	TOGASHI Tsuneo
	Niigata	KUBIKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSIZINOKOUBAI	YOSIZAKI Tsukasa
	Niigata	CHIYONOHIKARI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	CHIYONOHIKARI	SATO Kazutoshi
	Nagano	YOSHINOYA CO., LTD.	NISHINOMON	HARADA Hiroo
	Nagano	KAMETAYA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	ALPS MASAMUNE	ITO Daiji
	Nagano	SAKAGURA DAISHINSHU	DAISHINSHU	MORIMOTO Takayuki

Appendix

List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Junmai Ginjo-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2026

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Nagano	MARUNAGA SHUZOUJO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	TAKANAMI	NAGAHARA Motoharu
	Nagano	SHINSHUMEIJO CO., LTD.	SHUHOU KIKUZAKARI	KUDO Arimichi
	Nagano	WAKABAYASHI BREWING CO., LTD.	TSUKIYOSHINO	WAKABAYASHI Mami
	Nagano	MAIHIME CORPORATION	SUIRO	YAMAGUCHI Yoshihisa
	Nagano	INA FOOD INDUSTRY CO., LTD.	IMANISHIKI	SAKAGUCHI Shunya
	Nagano	KASUGA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	INOKASHIRA	URUSHIDO Takahiko
	Nagano	CHOSEISHA SAKE CORPORATION	SHINANOTSURU	KITAHARA Takeshi
	Nagano	SENJO CO., LTD.	KUROMATSU SENJO	YANAGIDAIRA Masato
	Nagano	KADOGUCHI SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	HOKKO MASAMUNE	MURAMATSU Yuya
	Nagano	DAISEKKEI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	DAISEKKEI	NAGASE Mamoru
	Nagano	HAKUBANISHIKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	HAKUBANISHIKI	MATSUURA Hiroyuki
	Nagano	TAKESHIGEHONKE SHUZOU CO., LTD.	BOKUSUI	SHIGETA Norikazu
	Nagano	CHIKUMANISHIKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SENROKURIKKA	KITAJIMA Masayuki
	Nagano	TSUCHIYA SHUZOUTEN CORPORATION	KAMENOUMI	SUZUKI Shunji
	Nagano	NANAWARAI SHUZOU CORPORATION	NANAWARAI	YANAGISAWA Satoru
	Nagano	YUKAWA SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KISOJI	YUGAWA Shinichi

Appendix

List of Prize winning sake manufacturers of *Junmai-shu* category in Kanto-Shinetsu Sake Awards 2026

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Grand Prize	Niigata	YUKITSUBAKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHI NO YUKITSUBAKI	IIZUKA Taiichi

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Special Prize	Niigata	TAMAGAWA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	GALAPAGOS	WADA Toshikazu
	Niigata	TAIYOU SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MUSO	HIRATA Shu

Prize	Prefecture	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Brewmaster etc.
The Excellence Prize	Ibaraki	URAZATO SHUZOUTEN LIMITED PARTNERSHIP COMPANY	URAZATO	URAZATO Chikara
	Ibaraki	BUYU CORPORATION	BUYU	HOSAKA Daijiro
	Ibaraki	RAIFUKUSHUZOU CO., LTD.	RAIFUKU	KANO Ryosuke
	Tochigi	UTSUNOMIYA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	SHIKISAKURA	TAMAYAMA Kazuyoshi
	Tochigi	TORAYA HONTEN CO., LTD.	SHICHISUI	TENMAYA Makoto
	Tochigi	TONOIKE SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	BOU	ONO Makoto
	Tochigi	WATANABE SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KYOKUKO	WATANABE Hidenori
	Tochigi	SENKIN CO., LTD.	SENKIN MODERN	USUI Masato
	Gunma	MAKINO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	OSAKAZUKI	MAKINO Kenjiro
	Gunma	ASAMASHUZOU CO., LTD. DAINIKOJO	HIGEN KIYO	TAMURA Hinako
	Niigata	ASAHI-SHUZOU SAKE BREWING CO., LTD. ASAHIGURA	ASAHIYAMA	OHASHI Ryosaku
	Niigata	ASAHI-SHUZOU SAKE BREWING CO., LTD. SHORAIGURA	ASAHIYAMA	WATANABE Masakatsu
	Niigata	HARA SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KOSHINOHOMARE	MURATA Masahiko
	Niigata	KIKUSUI SAKE CO., LTD. SETSUGOROGURA	KIKUSUI	ISHII Tomoya
	Niigata	AOKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	KAKUREI	TAKAHASHI Kazuei
	Niigata	TAKACHIYO SHUZOU CO., LTD.	TAKACHIYO	TAKAHASHI Ryo
	Niigata	TAKANOI SHUZOU CORPORATION	TAKANOI	KIMURA Akihiro
	Niigata	AYUMASAMUNE CO., LTD.	AYUMASAMUNE	AGEISHI Shuji
	Niigata	KUBIKI SHUZOU CO., LTD.	OKAMI KUSAMOE	YOSIZAKI Tsukasa
	Niigata	HOKUSETSU SHUZOU CORPORATION	HOKUSETSU LEON	NAKAGAWA Masahiro
	Nagano	IMAISHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	WAKAMIDORI	KOMAMURA Koji
	Nagano	ENDO BREWERY INC.	KEIRYU	TAKANO Shin
	Nagano	KAMETAYA SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	ALPS MASAMUNE	ITO Daiji
	Nagano	SAKAGURA DAISHINSHU	DAISHINSHU	MORIMOTO Takayuki
	Nagano	KADOGUCHI SHUZOUTEN CO., LTD.	HOKKO MASAMUNE	MURAMATSU Yuya
	Nagano	TAKESHIGEHONKE SHUZOU CO., LTD.	MISONOTAKE	SHIGETA Norikazu
	Nagano	YUKAWA SAKE BREWERY CO., LTD.	KISOJI	YUGAWA Shinichi