What is the Geographical Indications for Liquor Products in Japan?
What is the Geographical Indications (GIs) for Liquor Products?

Probably, many of you know that when the sign of “Champagne” for a liquor product, for example, it must be produced within the specified area, and it must meet prescribed production standards and quality requirements.

Thus, the GIs for Liquor Products are signs used on the product that have a collective geographical origin and the product according to the quality standard.

**The GIs for Liquor Products show that:**

- **It is actually produced within the area.**
- **It meets the specified production standards and the quality requirements.**

Consumer can choose collective brands for quality-bound-to-origin liquor products.

*The GIs for Liquor Products are granted by the Commissioner of the National Tax Agency of JAPAN upon application from groups of producers of the areas. The government will check on unauthorized use of GIs.

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About the Geographical Indication System for Liquor Products

**Q. What is a GI?**

**A.** GI is a system which promotes the appropriate use of the name of the geographical origin, which is the common property of the area. When the liquor products have specific characteristics of the area, based on the application from a producers’ association of the area, the Commissioner of the National Tax Agency of JAPAN grants it as the GIs. After that, only the producers of the area can use the GIs for their products*

For the producers of the GI area, there is a merit “differentiation with other products”, and for the consumers, there is a merit that they can choose the more reliable products by the local brand establishment.

* The condition for using the GI is that the production take place in the GI area, and meets the production standards.

**Q. Why was the GI system established?**

**A.**

- **Foreign countries**
  - The GI system is based on the “Controlled Designation of Origin” system of wine, which is an important product of the international trade mainly in Europe for a long time. In order to prevent unfair using of the name of geographical origin, many wine producing countries such as France officially established the standard of conditions to use the name of geographical origin for product wine, and have protected profits of both producers and consumers.

- **Japan**
  - When the WTO (World Trade Organization) started, protection of the GIs of wines and spirits became the duty of the member nations. Therefore, the National Tax Agency of JAPAN established the system in 1994. And the system was revised in 2015, and all liquor products became targets of the system.

**Q. How are the GIs displayed?**

**A.**

- [Example of indication] GI for “Tokyo”
- Any of the following letters are written jointly more than one place of the GIs.

  ①「地理的表示」
  ②「Geographical Indication」
  ③「GI」
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Date of Designation</th>
<th>Page</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 壱岐：Iki</td>
<td>Shochu(Barley)</td>
<td>June 30, 1995</td>
<td>41～42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 球磨：Kuma</td>
<td>Shochu(Rice)</td>
<td>June 30, 1995</td>
<td>43～44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 琉球：Ryukyu</td>
<td>Awamori</td>
<td>June 30, 1995 (Revised as of September 14, 2020)</td>
<td>47～48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 賀摩：Satsuma</td>
<td>Shochu (Sweet potato)</td>
<td>December 22, 2005</td>
<td>45～46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 白山：Hakusan</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>December 22, 2005</td>
<td>25～26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 山梨：Yamanashi</td>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>July 16, 2013</td>
<td>21～22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 日本酒：Nihonshu</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>December 25, 2015</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 山形：Yamagata</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>December 16, 2016</td>
<td>11～12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 長崎：Nagasaki</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>June 28, 2018 (Revised as of August 17, 2020)</td>
<td>31～32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 北海道：Hokkaido</td>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>June 28, 2018</td>
<td>7～8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Only changes based on the "Notice on Establishing Indication Standards Concerning Geographical Indications for Liquor" reviewed in October 2015 are listed.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Product</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 はりま：Harima</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>March 16, 2020</td>
<td>33～34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 三重：Mie</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>June 19,2020</td>
<td>27～28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 和歌山梅酒：Wakayama Umeshu</td>
<td>Liqueur</td>
<td>September 7,2020</td>
<td>35～36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 利根沼田：Tone Numata</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>January 22,2021</td>
<td>15～16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 藤：Hagi</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>March 30, 2021</td>
<td>37～38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 山梨：Yamanashi</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>April 28, 2021</td>
<td>23～24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 佐賀：Saga</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>June 14, 2021</td>
<td>39～40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 大阪：Osaka</td>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>29～30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 長野：Nagano</td>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>17～18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 長野：Nagano</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>19～20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 山形：Yamagata</td>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>9～10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 新潟：Niigata</td>
<td>Seishu (Sake)</td>
<td>February 7, 2022</td>
<td>13～14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*For a listing of the production standards for each region, please refer to the National Tax Agency of Japan website (https://www.nta.go.jp/english/taxes/liquor_administration/geographical/02.htm) (Information for Taxpayers > Information on Liquor Administration > Geographical Indication (GI) > Information on GIs protected in Japan).
Geographical Indication
“北海道(Hokkaido)”
(Designated in June, 2018)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>北海道(Hokkaido)</td>
<td>Hokkaido</td>
<td>ぶどう酒(Wine)</td>
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</table>

Rich Acidity and Fruity Aroma Produced by the Blessings of the Land

White wines possess the fruity aroma of green apples and citrus as well as a light, fruity flavor. There red wines possess a spicy, fruity fragrance and a light, mature aroma. They have clear acidity and mellow astrigency. Rose wines possess a rich, fruity aroma. On the other hand, dry rose wines are fruity and refreshing, and vividly convey their acidity. Establishing a fixed standard for the overall acid value of each type of wine numerically clarifies the richness of the characteristic acidity of Hokkaido wines.

Hokkaido’s Climate and devise of Cultivation

There are many hours of daylight from April to October, and temperatures change drastically throughout the day in the grape-growing area in Hokkaido. Also, during the grape-growing period, the climate is generally cool and there is little precipitation, so it is possible to harvest grapes in a healthy state with a high sugar and organic acid content.

In addition, cultivation methods that are applicable to severely cold and snowy climates have been established thanks to efforts by wine manufacturers on their own and the activities of conferences on Hokkaido-made wine. Development is also actively underway to create cold-resistant varieties such as mountain grape varieties and hybrid varieties that are optimized for the natural environment in Hokkaido.

The characteristics of Hokkaido wines, which are highly acidic with a fruity aroma, were formed through these cultivation methods as well as the traits of the climate and landscape.

Ingredients and Rule for GI Hokkaido

Ingredients
• Must use grapes grown in Hokkaido.
• Grape varieties used for wine are limited to 57 designated varieties, including Kerner, Niagara, Yamasachi, Pinot Noir, etc.
• Grapes must not exceed a certain amount of sugar.

Kerner    Niagara    Yamasachi    Pinot Noir

Rule for GI Hokkaido
• Must be produced, stored and bottled in Hokkaido.
• Must have an ABV content of 14.5% or less.
• No more than a certain amount of additional sugar and acid may be added to the must.

Control Body

In order to preserve the natural characteristics of GI “Hokkaido,” the Management Commission for GI “Hokkaido” conducts quality examinations, etc. and only wines that pass these tests may display the “GI Hokkaido” label.

Management Commission for GI “Hokkaido”
Address: 1-1-12 Ironai, Otaru City, Hokkaido
Otaru Canal Terminal
Inside NPO Winecluster Hokkaido
Website: winecluster.org

(Emblem for GI Hokkaido)
Geographical Indication
“山形 (Yamagata)”
(Designated in June, 2021)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>山形 (Yamagata)</td>
<td>Yamagata Prefecture</td>
<td>ぶどう酒 (Wine)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Featuring the inherent aroma and pleasantly acidic afterglow of grapes imbued with the richness of the region’s four seasons

With white wine, one can enjoy the inherent aroma of the grapes in floral and citrus notes, and also a refreshingly acidic aftertaste.
In addition to the aroma that comes from the grapes, aged red wine features a fragrant, mature aroma together with fruity notes.
The flavor is a combination of fresh acidic notes and an elegant astringency.
Rosé wine has a rich aroma stemming from the grapes and a fruity, light flavor. Sweet rosé strikes a balance between the inherent sweet and acidic flavors of grapes. Dry rosé varieties feature a refreshing acidic taste.

Climate/natural characteristics of Yamagata, and initiatives to boost production technologies

The grape cultivation areas of Yamagata Prefecture consist primarily of the intermediary regions between flatlands and mountains not suitable to paddy fields. The soil drains well due to the slope of the land, while the number of sunlight hours during the growing period, the temperature, precipitation levels, plus the organic acid in the soil, all contribute to the harvest of robust grapes.
Starting in around 1980, in addition to the cultivation of different varieties of high-quality grapes, production of authentic wines expanded in this region.
The Yamagata Prefecture Wine and Sake Association, as well as initiatives to boost production technologies by the Yamagata Young Winemakers’ Research Group—work together with the Yamagata Prefecture Agricultural Research Center and the Yamagata Prefecture Industrial Technology Center to share information on cultivation and production technologies to further improve the quality of the wines of Yamagata, known for their refreshing, acidic flavors.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Yamagata

Ingredients
- Must use grapes grown in Yamagata Prefecture.
- Grape varieties used for wine are limited to 51 designated varieties, including Delaware, Muscat Bailey A, Merlot, Yama Sauvignon, etc.
- Grapes must not exceed a certain amount of sugar.

Rules for GI Yamagata
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Yamagata Prefecture.
- Alcohol content is 7.0% or higher, and less than 20.0%
- Volatile acidity content is 1.5g/L or less
- No more than a certain amount of additional sugar and acid may be added to the must.

Control Body

To maintain the special characteristics implied by “Yamagata” Geographical Indication, the Management Committee for Use of the “Yamagata” Geographical Indication for Wine Products confirms that the relevant products meet the criteria under the “Section on Ingredients and Production Methods for Alcoholic Beverages” under the Production Criteria for the Use of the Geographical Indication of “Yamagata.”

Management Commission for GI “Yamagata”

Address: Takahata Winery Grounds
2700-1 Nukanome, Takahata-machi, Higashiokitama District, Yamagata Prefecture
Geographical Indication
“山形 (Yamagata)”
(Designated in December, 2016)

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Liquor Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>山形 (Yamagata)</td>
<td>Yamagata Prefecture</td>
<td>濃酒 (Seishu/Sake)</td>
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</table>

Silky and clear taste

Yamagata sake generally has a silky and clear taste. Junmai-shu and Honjozo-shu of “Yamagata” are characterized by their rich, full-bodied yet gentle characteristics with a harmony of acidity and umami.

The Junmai-ginjo-shu and Ginjo-shu have clear taste due to smooth texture and the fruity flavor, which is reminiscent of bananas, and other fruits grown in Yamagata prefecture such as apples, melons, and La France pears. These characteristics contribute to the clear taste.

Climate and landscape of Yamagata prefecture and efforts to improve their brewing techniques

In Yamagata prefecture, it snows heavily in winter. Therefore, melted snow become excellent underground water in the mountain ranges of Yamagata. The water in Yamagata is soft water and is suitable for sake making. This water contributes directly to its “clear taste” by making advantage of it as brewing water. In addition, the bitter winter cold of Yamagata prefecture is suited to inhibiting the growth of undesirable microorganisms and conducive to long-term, low-temperature fermentation which is important especially Ginjo-shu brewing. For these reasons Yamagata is one of a most ideal place for brewing Ginjo-shu.

Within the prefecture, under the leadership of the Yamagata Research Institute of Technology and the Yamagata Sake maker’s Association, the effort was taken to develop human resource and to improve brewing techniques. This has raised the overall quality of sake produced in this region and has contributed to creating soft and clear taste, which are the specific properties of Yamagata sake.

Ingredients and Rule for GI Yamagata

Ingredients
- Rice koji rice must be made in Japan.
- Water collected in Yamagata prefecture is used.
- No sugar is used as ingredient.

Rule for GI Yamagata
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Yamagata prefecture.

Control Body

The Yamagata Sake Brewers Association conducts quality reviews on a regular basis. To maintain the established GI Yamagata standards.

Yamagata Sake Brewers Association
Address: Yamagata prefecture, Yamagata-city, Midori-town, 1-7-46
Website: www.yamagata-sake.or.jp/
Geographical Indication
“新潟 (Niigata)”
(Designated in February 2022)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>新潟 (Niigata)</td>
<td>Niigata Prefecture</td>
<td>清酒 (Seishu/Sake)</td>
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Simple, clean-tasting sake

The Japanese sake of Niigata is generally known for its refreshing quality. The aroma that one gets when this sake is poured into a glass is soft like the morning mist. The flavor is smooth, like delicate snow, and goes down easily. The light, sweet flavor that comes from the rice blends with other elegant flavors to leave only a pleasant aftertaste. This simple, clean flavor is what earns Niigata sake its reputation as a particularly refreshing variety of sake.

Climate/natural characteristics of Niigata, and initiatives to boost production technologies

Niigata Prefecture boasts ample soft water thanks to the region’s heavy snowfall. The area’s stable low temperatures enabled by snow accumulation creates an ideal environment for the function microorganisms used in sake-brewing such as the koji mold and yeast, yielding the characteristically smooth-and-refreshing quality of Niigata sake.

In addition, the echigo toji technique dating to the Edo Period has been passed down to the present day through the efforts of both the public and private sector. By way of these and other initiatives, techniques enabling the production of high-quality sake have been successfully developed here. Thanks to this kind of support on sake-making techniques, the area has been able to devise and maintain sake unique to Niigata and appropriate for the times.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Niigata

**Ingredients**

- Rice and rice koji must be made in Japan.
- Water collected in Niigata prefecture is used.
- No sugar is used as ingredient.

**Rules for GI Niigata**

- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Niigata prefecture.

Control Body

To maintain the special characteristics implied by the “Niigata” Geographical Indication, the Niigata Sake Brewers Association confirms that the relevant products meet the criteria under the “Section on Ingredients and Production Methods for Alcoholic Beverages” under the Production Criteria for the Use of the Geographical Indication “Niigata.”

Niigata Sake Brewers Association
Address: 2-292-2 Higashinakadori, Chuo Ward, Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture
Website: [www.niigata-sake.or.jp](http://www.niigata-sake.or.jp/)

Sake Fair “Niigata Sake no Jin”
Geographical Indication

"利根沼田（Tone Numata）"
(Designated in January 2021)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>利根沼田（Tone Numata）</td>
<td>Numata City and Kataishina Village, Kawada Village, Shinonoji Village and Minakami Town in Tone County, Gunma Prefecture</td>
<td>清酒（Seishu/Sake）</td>
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Transparent flavor and moderate umami taste

The seishu (sake) of the Tone Numata area generally has a quality that allows you to experience a moderate umami taste within a generally transparent flavor. The color tone has a crystal base with transparent pale gold coloring. This sake has a pleasant aftertaste with a slight umami flavor, sweetness, or faint bitterness reminiscent of the green vegetables and edible wild plants harvested in the Tone Numata area.

Climate and Natural Features of Tone Numata, and Efforts to Improve Quality

The Tone Numata area is located in the northern part of Gunma Prefecture. In summer, the daylight hours are long, while winter weather conditions are harsh. The abundant soft water flowing through the neighboring mountains, including Mt. Hotakayama, is a major factor in the transparent quality of Tone Numata sake. Furthermore, the region produces high-quality rice due to the long daylight hours and large daily temperature differences, which combined with the harsh cold of the winter months, create the perfect environment for brewing sake. What is more, sake breweries here have long had close collaborations with each other so that today, with all the breweries operated by kuramoto or hired master brewers, efforts are being made to maintain and improve the region's unique sake quality through research and the accumulation of sake brewing expertise.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Tone Numata

Ingredients

- Only the following rice brands and varieties produced in the Tone Numata area may be used.
  - Yukihotaka
  - Gohyakumangoku
  - Koshikihari
- The water used must come from the Tone Numata area and cannot have undergone any physical or chemical processing other than precipitation and filtration.
- Only the following yeasts may be used for fermentation.
  - Gunma KAZE Kobo
  - Gunma G2 Kobo
  - Original brewery yeast (only yeasts collected and cultivated in the Tone Numata area)
- Ingredients must not include alcohol or sugar.
- When using seishu instead of water, only seishu from the production method described above may be used.

Rules for GI Tone Numata

- Must be brewed, stored, and bottled in the Tone Numata area

Control Body

The GI Tone Numata Council conducts quality reviews on a regular basis. To maintain the established GI Tone Numata standards.

GI Tone Numata Council
Address: 1306-2 Takahira, Shirasawa-machi, Numata City, Gunma Prefecture
Geographical Indication
“長野（Nagano）”
(Designated in June 2021)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>長野 Prefecture</td>
<td>ぶどう酒(Wine)</td>
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The essential qualities of these wines, which stem from the type of grape they are made from, are extremely evident.

In general, the red wines of this area are highly concentrated in character, featuring a rich tone, plus a combination of deep tannins and an appropriate level of acidity. The white wines of this region, meanwhile, clearly exhibit the distinct aromas of the different types of grapes, yielding a fresh, lively acidic flavor. In addition, amongst Nagano wines, those labeled as "premium," strike a perfect balance between a rich, elegant aroma and a robust, fruity flavor—drawing on the varying flavors and aromas of the different types of grapes. The result is a definitive afterglow.

Climate/natural characteristics of Nagano, and initiatives to promote wine

The average elevation of Nagano Prefecture is higher than 1,000 meters. Much of the land area used for grape cultivation is 500-meters-plus. Local conditions, such as good drainage of the soil, a cool environment, and a significant difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures create an ideal environment for grape-making. These climate conditions yield the appropriate organic acids in the grapes used to make white wine, and at the same time exhibit a high sugar content. The grapes used in red wines produced here, meanwhile, are high-quality grapes containing ample amounts of anthocyanin.

The region is one of the nation’s leaders in terms of production volumes. In addition, the Nagano Prefectural Government has engaged in industry-government-academia collaborative projects, such as the establishment of the Nagano Prefecture Product Origin Designation System, the Shinshu Wine Valley concept, etc. The objective is to revitalize the Nagano Prefecture wine industry as well as branding of made-in-Nagano wines.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Nagano

**Ingredients**
- Must use grapes grown in Nagano Prefecture.
- Grape varieties used for wine are limited to 50 designated varieties, including Merlot, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, etc.
- Grapes must not exceed a certain amount of sugar.

**Rules for GI Nagano**
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Nagano Prefecture.
- Must have an ABV content of 7.5% or higher (8.0% or higher for premium varieties).
- No more than a certain amount of additional sugar and acid may be added to the must.
- Only wine products that meet a specified set of conditions may be labelled as “Nagano Premium Wine.”

Control Body

To maintain the special characteristics implied by the “Nagano” Geographical Designation, the Nagano Prefecture Product Origin Designation Committee confirms that the relevant products meet the criteria under the “Section on Ingredients and Production Methods for Alcoholic Beverages” under the Production Criteria for the Use of the Geographical Indication “Nagano.”

Nagano Prefecture Product Origin Designation Committee

Address: Japanese Sake and Wine Promotion Division,
692-2 Minami Nagano,
Nagano City,
Nagano Prefecture

(Emblem for GI NAGANO)
Geographical Indication
“長野 (Nagano)”
(Designated in June 2021)

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<td>清酒 (Seishu/Sake)</td>
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These sake products offer a simple-yet-rich flavor, and clean, gentle aroma

Generally speaking, Nagano sake features a simple-yet-rich flavor together with a clean, gentle aroma. The rich flavor comes from a high concentration of the umami (savory) flavor of rice, which means it is highly satisfying drunk alone, but also enhances and draws out any savory flavor contained in food. It’s a perfect match for savory cooking. Meanwhile, the clean, gentle aroma does not in any way impede the flavors of food, leaving only a clean afterglow.

Climate/natural characteristics of Nagano, and initiatives to boost production technologies

Nagano Prefecture is surrounded by some of Japan’s highest mountains. Thanks to its inland climate, it sees large discrepancies between daytime and nighttime temperatures, which renders it ideal for cultivation of rice with high starch content—which in turn makes it appropriate to sake-brewing. This, combined with the effect of the clear-running streams from the mountains, results in the characteristic simple-yet-robust flavor and clean aroma of this region’s sake.

In Nagano Prefecture, the Nagano Prefecture General Industrial Technology Center and the Nagano Sake Brewery Association have collaborated on special classes to help people develop sake-brewing skills. Also, with a view to branding Nagano Prefecture sake, the Nagano Prefectural government has also joined forces with the private sector and the local region to train personnel and boost sake-brewing technologies, taking such steps as establishing the Nagano Prefecture Product Origin Designation System. The goal is to maintain and continuously improve varieties of sake with characteristics unique to Nagano.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Nagano

**Ingredients**

- Rice and rice koji must be made in Japan (Must be milled in Nagano Prefecture).
- Water collected in Nagano prefecture is used.
- No sugar is used as ingredient.

**Rules for GI Nagano**

- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Nagano prefecture.

Control Body

To maintain the special characteristics implied by the “Nagano” Geographical Designation, the Nagano Prefecture Product Origin Designation Committee confirms that the relevant products meet the criteria under the “Section on Ingredients and Production Methods for Alcoholic Beverages” under the Production Criteria for the Use of the Geographical Indication “Nagano.”

**Nagano Prefecture Product Origin Designation Committee**

Address: Japanese Sake and Wine Promotion Division,
692-2 Minami Nagano,
Nagano City,
Nagano Prefecture
Geographical Indication
“山梨(Yamanashi)”
(Designated in July, 2013 / revised June, 2017)

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<td>Yamanashi Prefecture</td>
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Well-Balanced Wine That Preserves the Grapes' Natural Properties

<Best-Known Wines>
White wine made from Koshu has an abundant aroma and a gentle taste. Dry Koshu wine has a fruity citrus scent and a lively acidity. Red wine made from "Muscat Bailey A" has a vivid red-purple hue, a fruity and sweet aroma, and a soft astringent flavor.

Yamanashi Prefecture's Climate and devise of Cultivation
Yamanashi prefecture's climate is well-suited to growing grapes. The grapes are grown with bright, vivid colors. The brisk cold autumn air has an excellent influence on their overall quality, including their sugar content. In Yamanashi prefecture, well-balanced wine preserving the grape's natural properties has been manufactured by breweries, mainly “Yamanashi Prefecture Wine Brewery Association”, to devise better method of cultivating grapes and to select varieties for taking root in Yamanashi's natural environment.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Yamanashi

Ingredients
- Must use grapes grown in Yamanashi prefecture.
- Grape varieties used for wine are limited to 42 designated varieties, including Koshu, Muscat Bailey A, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay.
- Grapes must not exceed a certain amount of sugar.

Rules for GI Yamanashi
- Must be produced, stored, and bottled in Yamanashi prefecture.
- Dry wine must have an ABV content of 8.5% or higher, and sweet wine must have an ABV content of 4.5% or higher.
- No more than a certain amount of additional sugar and acid may be added to the must.

Control Body
The Management Commission for GI “Yamanashi” conducts quality and display review. Only wines that pass these tests may display the “GI Yamanashi” label. To preserve the natural characteristics of GI “Yamanashi”.

Management Commission for GI “Yamanashi”
Address: Yamanashi Prefecture Wine Manufacturers’ Association Local Industry Center, 2F 3-13-25 Tokoji, Kofu City, Yamanashi Prefecture
Website: www.wine.or.jp/
Geographical Indication
“山梨 (Yamanashi)”
(Designated in April 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>山梨 (Yamanashi)</td>
<td>Yamanashi Prefecture</td>
<td>清酒 (Seishu/Sake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The water of this region has a soft texture and a pure taste derived from a set of favorable natural conditions

Soft water created by a set of favorable natural conditions, including the height of the mountains and underground strata, is used in the sake-making process. At the same time, the winter—which is the sake-brewing season—is cold in this region, which means the fermentation process progresses slowly and steadily. The taste is simple, soft, clean, and pure, with a robust savoury flavor, and a not-too-weak, not-too-strong aroma.

Climate/natural characteristics of Yamanashi and initiatives to boost quality

Yamanashi Prefecture is surrounded by several mountains and mountain ranges, measuring 2,000 meters to 3,000 meters in height, including Mt. Fuji, the Southern Alps, the Yatsugatake Mountains, the Okuchichibu Mountains, and more. These mountains comprise approximately 78% of the Prefecture’s land. Rain and snowfall falling on high mountains such as Mt. Fuji serve to provide moisture to the forests. As the water flows under the foothills of these mountains through layers of granite, basalt, and andesite, it is naturally filtered such that it contains an appropriate amount of minerals. This underground water forms a number of water systems. Though the mineral content differs slightly depending on the water system, water from each system is comprised of soft, high quality, and overall light water. This is Japan’s foremost mineral water production area (with a 40% share of the national total), an indication of the excellent quality of Yamanashi water. Amongst products receiving the “Yamanashi” GI indication from administrative bodies, those meeting a stricter set of conditions, e.g. those containing only rice grown in Yamanashi Prefecture and certified by the Yamanashi Prefecture Japanese Sake Product Origin Designation Committee, also earn the “Yamanashi Sake” designation.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Yamanashi

Ingredients

- GI YAMANASHI
  - Japanese sake products certified by the Yamanashi Prefecture Sake Product Origin Designation Committee

Rules for GI Yamanashi

- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Yamanashi prefecture.

Control Body

To maintain the special characteristics implied by the “Yamanashi” Geographical Designation, the Yamanashi Sake and Shochu Makers Association conducts checks on the relevant water systems used in the manufacture of these beverages, and also screens for quality by way of sensory evaluation.

Yamanashi Sake and Shochu Makers Association

Address: 4-15-5 Kokubo, Kofu City, Yamanashi Prefecture

Website: www.yamanashi-sake.jp
Geographical Indication
“白山(Hakusan)”
(Designated in December, 2005/Revised November, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>白山(Hakusan)</td>
<td>板山市, 北海道</td>
<td>清酒(Seishu/Sake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full-Bodied Taste derived from Rice

“Hakusan” sake generally has a full-bodied taste enhanced by rice. Mostly, Junmai-ginjo-shu and Ginjo-shu have a gentle fruity aroma, favorable acidity and a rich and full-bodied flavor.

Paddy-rice (Mitsuyano area, Hakusan City)

Climate/Natural Feature in Hakusan City and Ongoing Quality Improvement Efforts

Hakusan City in Ishikawa Prefecture is located in Tendo River Fan which flows from Sacred Mt. Hakusan, object of faith from more than 1300 years ago, and is rich in abundant riverbed water. This water containing much calcium and less potassium leads gradual fermentation and accelerates dissolution of rice in the process of sake brewing. In this way, it has brought about a flavor of rice and the quality peculiar to Hakusan with full-bodied taste has been formed.

Based on high evaluation for quality of sake from long ago, Hakusan sake makers have made effort to work to achieve producing rich flavor of sake by technical training and product development such as by using Yamahai-jikomi. Moreover, they launched the regional brand “Hakusan Kikusake” in 2005 to maintain their characteristics and to improve quality.

Sacred mountain Hakusan

Ingredients and Rule for GI Hakusan

Ingredients
- Rice and rice koji made in Japan (Rice which is made in Japan rated as 1 or higher class and polished down to 70% or less is used).
- Water collected in Hakusan City in Ishikawa Prefecture is used
- No sugar is used as ingredient

Rule for GI Hakusan
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Hakusan City in Ishikawa Prefecture.
- Must not conduct preparation for liquefaction.
- Must produce by using shubo.
- Proportion of koji rice used must be at least 20%

Note 1: “Preparation for liquefaction” is a preparation method to liquefy sake rice by using enzymes without being steamed.
Note 2: “Shubo” is yeast starter propagated by rice, rice koji and water to help with the process of producing sake.
Note 3: “Proportion of koji rice used” is based on Section 1, Item 3 of “Labeling Standards for Producing Process and Quality of Sake (1989 National Tax Office Notice No.8)"

Control Body

The Management Organization for Geographical Indication Hakusan Sake regularly conducts quality assessments to maintain the characteristics of GI “Hakusan”.

Management Organization for Geographical Indication Hakusan Sake
Address: 12 Higashi Shinmachi, Hakusan City, Ishikawa Prefecture
Website: www.sake-hakusan.info/
### Geographical Indication “三重(Mie)”
(Designated in June 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>三重(Mie)</td>
<td>Mie Prefecture</td>
<td>清酒(Seishu/Sake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A Sake with Warmth, Elegance, and Richness

The seishu (sake) of Mie Prefecture are typically warming with a full-bodied yet elegant quality. Whether sweet or dry, they are velvety smooth in texture, with flavors that build gradually to yield a pleasant richness. All the while, a gentle warmth fills the mouth, whether the sake is served hot, cold, or in between. Mie’s rich and elegant sake make a perfect pairing with freshly caught shellfish.

![Abalone and Japanese spiny lobster](image)

### Climate and Natural Features of Mie Prefecture, and Efforts to Improve Brewing Techniques

Mie Prefecture has a warm summer climate influenced by the Kuroshio Current, and a cool winter climate due to the cold, dry Suzuka-Oroshi winds. Both the snow which blankets the 1,000-meter-plus peaks of the Suzuka Mountains and the heavy rainfall in the Kii Mountains provide an abundant and outstanding water source, enabling the production of sake with a warming, full-bodied quality.

In recent years, not only have Mie’s sake brewers collaborated with the Mie Prefecture Industrial Research Institute to develop original sake yeasts and brewing techniques compatible with the local climate and topography, but furthermore, efforts have been made to enhance the skills of sake brewers through training in the latest brewing techniques, provided by young experts from the Mie Prefecture Society for the Study of Seishu.

![Akame 48 Waterfalls (Nabari City)](image)

### Ingredients and Rules for GI Mie

#### Ingredients
- The rice and rice koji must be grown and made in Japan (ranked Class 3 or higher in accordance with the Agricultural Products Inspection Act)
- The water must be from Mie Prefecture

#### Rules for GI Mie
- The sake must be a ‘Special Designation Sake’, with good flavor, color, and clarity
- The sake must be brewed, stored, and bottled in Mie Prefecture

(Note) A ‘Special Designation Sake’ refers to a ginjo-shu, junmai-shu, and honjozo-shu that can fulfill the conditions for production and quality listed in the table in Item 1 of the Standard for Seishu Production, Quality, and Labeling (Japanese National Tax Agency Notification 8 of 1989).

![Ise Grand Shrine (Large Torii gate at Uji Bridge)](image)

### Control Body

The Mie Sake Brewers Association regularly screens product quality in order to maintain and preserve the special features of the Mie Geographical Indica-

### The Story behind the GI Mie Logo

The GI Mie logo incorporates the image of the morning sun, inspired by the scene pictured above: framed by the Torii gate at Uji Bridge, rising above the Naiku (the innermost shrine) of the Ise Grand Shrine. The sun floats above a cup of sacred sake to be offered to the gods. Inside the morning sun is a ‘tabane noshi’, a bundle of long, dried strips of abalone ('noshi awabi'), a lucky charm thought to bring longevity and business prosperity.

Noshi awabi has been presented as an offering at the Ise Grand Shrine for over 2,000 years.

### Mie Sake Brewers Association

Address: 141-4 Otani-cho, Tsu City, Mie Prefecture
Website: [www.mie-sake.or.jp/](http://www.mie-sake.or.jp/)
**Geographical Indication**

**“大阪 (Osaka)”**
(Designated in June 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>大阪 (Osaka)</td>
<td>Osaka Prefecture</td>
<td>ぶどう酒 (Wine)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**These wines feature a concentrated fruity flavor and mild acidity derived from fresh-and-delicious grapes**

Osaka wines utilize fresh, great-tasting grapes. Table grape cultivation techniques developed over many years of wine grape production, mainly Delaware and other table grape varieties, are applied in the production process. Wines made from Delaware grapes are characterized by a refreshing aroma and rich, deep sweetness. In addition, the white wines of the area made with non table grapes have a rich, fruity aroma, while the red wines have more of a mellow aroma and soft, fruity flavor tempered by mild tannins. The result is a weighty body to the wine.

**Climate/natural characteristics/ reliable brewing technologies of Osaka**

The grape producing areas of Osaka receive ample hours of sunlight, and also have a warm climate and low rainfall year-round. Because of significantly low rainfall in the summer, the region is conducive to healthy grape growth. It developed as a major grape production region starting around 1880. In 1914, the first full-scale winery in the area was established in order to utilize non-standard table grapes. Wine was made using table grapes such as Koshu and Delaware varieties. Subsequently, grape varieties from Europe appropriate to the climate of Osaka, along with grapes specifically for wines, were introduced.

In recent years, the Osaka Prefecture Research Institute of Environment, Agriculture, and Fisheries has collaborated with wineries in the production area to bolster winemaking technologies.

**Ingredients and Rules for GI Osaka**

**Ingredients**
- Must use grapes grown in Osaka Prefecture.
- Grape varieties used for wine are limited to 36 designated varieties, including Delaware, Muscat Bailey A, Koshu, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, etc.
- Grapes must not exceed a certain amount of sugar.

**Rules for GI Osaka**
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Osaka Prefecture.
- Must have an ABV content of 9.0% or higher (4.5% or higher for sweet wines).
- No more than a certain amount of additional sugar and acid may be added to the must.

**Control Body**

To maintain the special characteristics implied by the “Osaka” Geographical Indication, the Management Committee for Use of the “Osaka” Geographical Indication for Wine Products conducts quality inspections, ensuring that only wines passing these inspections receive the “Osaka” Geographical Indication.

**Management Commission for GI “Osaka”**

Address: 2-9-14 Taiheiji, Kashiwara City, Osaka Prefecture
Katashima Wine & Food, Osaka Wineries Association

Website: [https://www.osaka-winery.com](https://www.osaka-winery.com)

A vineyard overlooking the Osaka Plain

Winemakers
Geographical Indication
“灘五郷 (Nadagogo)”
(Designated in June, 2018/ Revised August, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>灘五郷 (Nadagogo)</td>
<td>Nada Ward and Higashi-Nada Ward in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture, Ashiya City and Nishinomiya City</td>
<td>清酒 (Seishu/Sake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liquor with a Clean Aftersaste

Generally speaking, Nadagogo sake has well-balanced flavor elements and a sharp after-taste. In particular, when the sake is stored over the summer for aging and distributed in autumn, the sake becomes so smooth and flavorful that the more you taste, the more aspects you will know.

Of the sake that has been put through the Akiagari process, those that are with temperatures close to outside temperatures and shipped straight out of the storage tank without further heat treatment are called “Hiyaooshi”. This type of sake are traditionally shipped from Nadagogo in and after September.

In addition, by combining luxuriant fruity aromas and full flavors, Junmai-ginjo-shu and Ginjo-shu become sake having both well-balanced as well as even sharper aftertaste.

Climate and Landscape of Nadagogo and Efforts to Improve Quality

In the Nadagogo region, cold winds blow down from the Rokko Mountains in winter, providing the land with a climate extremely well-suited to winter brewing. In addition, the groundwater that wells up through the strata in this area contains the minerals necessary for yeast proliferation and provides hard water suitable for sake brewing. Using this groundwater as preparation water in brewing gives the sake a sharp aftertaste by promoting strong, healthy fermentation and balancing flavor elements.

In Nadagogo region, Tamba brewer at one of the Japan’s three biggest sake brewer's guild has traditional brewing techniques. In addition, “Society for Nada Sake Research (SNSR)”, a private organizational of technicians and researchers focuses on improving sake brewing techniques as well as training personnel. Moreover cooperation between Nadagogo Sake Brewers Association and municipal government research groundwater within the region and maintain quality of Nadagogo Sake. As a result of these initiatives, the characteristics of Nadagogo has been passed down through the ages all the way to the present day.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Nadagogo

**Ingredients**
- Rice and rice koji made in Japan (ranked Class 3 or higher according to the Agricultural Products Inspection Act).
- Water collected in Nadagogo.
- No sugar is used as ingredient.

**Rule for GI Nadagogo**
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Nadagogo.

Control Body

The Nadagogo Sake Brewers Association conducts quality reviews on a regular basis. To maintain the established GI Nadagogo standards.

Nadagogo Sake Brewers Association
Address: 5-10-11 Mikagehonmachi, Higashi-Nada Ward, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture
Website: [www.nadagogo.ne.jp/](http://www.nadagogo.ne.jp/)

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Upper Reaches of Sumiyoshi River

Tamba Brewers

Nadagogo Area Map

Paddy Rice

(Emblem for GI Nadagogo)
Geographical Indication
“はりま(Harima)”
(Designated in March, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>はりま(Harima)</td>
<td>The following Cities and Towns in Hyogo Prefecture: Himeji City, Ako City, Koganei City, Ako City, Nishiowa City, Min City, Tatsuno City, Osa City, Kii City, Ine City, Tatsuno City, Akashi City, Taka Town, Inami Town, Harima Town, Ichikawa Town, Fukutsu Town, Kaminari Town, Tatsukawa Town, Kamigori Town, and Sango Town.</td>
<td>酒酒(Seishu/Sake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A light body, refreshing sake quality born from Hyogo Prefecture-grown Yamada-Nishiki rice

Generally, Harima’s Seishu (Sake) have a soft, gentle roundness to the flavor with minimal bitterness or astringency, a delicate body with a rich, aromatic expansive blossoming of flavor. Using koji made from Yamada-Nishiki rice grown in Hyogo Prefecture, this sake has a pleasant acidity, producing a light, refreshing aftertaste. In particular, Junmai daiginjo-shu and ginjo-shu sake wines have a sweet, flamboyant, fruity apple-like aroma that harmonizes with its pleasant acidity, creating an even better sake quality that slides down the throat.

Harima’s climate and natural environment / efforts to preserve Yamada-Nishiki

Harima’s grain-producing region has vast areas of mineral-rich clay agricultural land, and there are large daily temperature variations during the period when rice grains are ripening. This climate and the natural environment positively impact the Yamada-Nishiki rice in terms of the shape of the shinpaku and the low levels of fat and protein, making this rice variety an excellent raw material for brewing sake.

The Yamada-Nishiki rice variety was developed in 1936, and the original strain has been preserved and managed ever since. Strict maintenance of rice quality under the Main Crop Seeds Production Ordinance (Hyogo Prefecture Ordinance No. 31) led to Yamada-Nishiki taking root in Hyogo Prefecture.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Harima

**Ingredients**
- The brewery uses only Yamada-Nishiki rice koji and Yamada-Nishiki rice harvested in Hyogo Prefecture (rice cultivated from seeds screened in accordance with Main Crop Seeds Production Ordinance [Hyogo Prefecture Ordinance No. 31]).
- Only water collected within the Harima region is used.
- No sugar or other ingredients are added to the raw materials.

**Rule for GI Harima**
- The liquor products are brewed, stored, and bottled in Harima.

Control Body

In order to maintain the characteristics of the Harima geographical indications, the Harima Sake Research Society screens product quality on a regular basis.

Harima Sake Research Society
Address: 246 Hojonagara-cho, Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture (within the Himeji Brewers Association)
# Geographical Indication

“和歌山梅酒 (Wakayama Umeshu)”
(Designated in September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>和歌山梅酒 (Wakayama Umeshu)</td>
<td>Wakayama Prefecture</td>
<td>その他の酒類 (Other kinds of liquor)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Strong Taste Harmonizing
Richly Flavored Ume Fruit Extract and Alcohol

Wakayama Umeshu instantaneously fills the mouth with a refreshing flavor and the rich, thick aroma of freshly picked unripe or ripe ume fruits from Wakayama Prefecture and envelops the stimulating aroma of the alcohol within the liquor. The pleasant, slightly long trailing notes from the sweetness of moderate amounts of sugar and the acidity of the ume fruits fill the oral and nasal cavities to enhance the taste of any food, making this umeshu a perfect aperitif.

## Climate and Natural Features of Wakayama Prefecture and the Development of Umeshu Production

Wakayama Prefecture has many mountainous areas where fruit cultivation has long thrived here. Ume fruit trees, in particular, grow efficiently on the slopes of the mountains, and Wakayama Prefecture’s warm climate and substantial annual rainfall make it possible to cultivate large, high-quality ume fruits. Accordingly, ume fruit cultivation has spread throughout the prefecture but is centered on Tanabe City and Minabe Town in the Hidaka District. Wakayama Umeshu was born when sake breweries began making umeshu during the off-season for sake production from spring to summer. Later, umeshu brewers and ume fruit growers joined forces to maintain the characteristics and further improve the quality of Wakayama Umeshu through continuous research on umeshu and the methods for cultivating the ume fruit varieties most suitable for the making of umeshu.

## Ingredients and Rules for GI Wakayama Umeshu

**Ingredients**
- Ume fruits immersed in alcohol must be freshly picked unripe or ripe ume fruits produced in Wakayama Prefecture.
- The alcohol in which the ume fruits are immersed must be a sake (sake), continuous distillation shochu, single distillation shochu, whisky, brandy, material alcohol, or spirits prescribed under Article 3 of the Liquor Tax Act.
- Ingredients other than alcohol and ume fruits may comprise only ume fruit flesh, ume fruit juice, sugar, and sugar-containing materials (excluding synthetic sweeteners), and carbonic acid.

**Rules for GI Wakayama Umeshu**
- Must use 300 kg or more of ume fruit for every kiloliter of alcohol in which the ume fruits are immersed.
- Ume fruits must be immersed in alcohol in Wakayama Prefecture.
- Ume fruits must be immersed in alcohol for a minimum of 90 days.
- While the ume fruits are immersed in alcohol, they must not be intentionally crushed or compressed.
- Once removed from the alcohol, the ume fruits must not be reused for making umeshu.
- If the umeshu is stored as part of the brewing process, it must be stored in Wakayama Prefecture.

**Matters relating liquor classes**
- Liqueur

## Control Body

The GI Wakayama Umeshu Management Committee regularly screens for product quality in order to maintain the special features of the Wakayama Umeshu geographical indications.

*This control body also certifies the long-term aging process used to produce Wakayama Umeshu.

**GI Wakayama Umeshu Management Committee**
Address: 16 Saikaya-machi, Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture
Website: [https://giwakayama.com](https://giwakayama.com)
**Geographical Indication**

"Hagi (Hagi)"
(Designated in March 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hagi</td>
<td>Abu-cho (Abu-gun) and Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture</td>
<td>Seishu/Sake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A plump texture and elegant savory flavor derived from rice**

In general, sake from Hagi embodies the plump texture and elegant savory umami flavor of the rice, as well as a fresh acidic taste. The savory flavor remains in a pleasant afterglow, but because of its clean taste, it does not impede any kind of cooking, and one never gets tired of drinking it. With the ginjo sake varieties, the fruity aroma comes through. This sake also brings out the delicate flavors of whitefish, local specialty product of Hagi.

**Climate/natural characteristics of the Hagi area, and sake-brewing as a community effort**

In Hagi City and Abu-cho (Abu-gun) and Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, there exist a number of flat plateaus of quality clay soil created by the activity of the Abu Volcanoes. These plateaus have been home to rice cultivation since ancient times. Further, in recent years, local farmers have begun to grow rice featuring lower carbohydrate content for sake-making, under the direction of local brewers. High-quality water originating in volcanic bedrock such as granite is available for use in the sake-brewing process. The sake-brewing techniques of this area were brought by sake masters of Otsu. To this day, skilled sake workers steeped in brewing science and fermentation science continue the work of maintaining and enhancing the special attributes of Hagi sake products.

Abu-cho (Abu-gun) and Hagi City in Yamaguchi Prefecture have perpetuated the tradition of local-production-for-local-consumption since the Edo Period. At the same time, these areas have engaged the entire community in sake brewin — that is not only encouraging sake product producers and sake rice growers, but also regional distributors and consumers, to plant the fields and harvest the crops together.

**Ingredients and Rules for GI Hagi**

**Ingredients**
- Rice and rice koji must be made in Abu-cho (Abu-gun) and Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture (ranked Class 3 or higher according to the Agricultural Products Inspection Act).
- Water collected in Abu-cho (Abu-gun) and Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefectur is used.
- No sugar is used as ingredient.

**Rules for GI Hagi**
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Abu-cho (Abu-gun) and Hagi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

**Control Body**

To maintain the special characteristics implied by the “Hagi” Geographical Designation, the Hagi Regional Geographical Indication Management Committee conducts regular quality inspections.

**Hagi Region Geographical Indication Management Committee**

Address: 1755 Ogorikamigo, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture
Yamaguchi Prefecture Sake Brewers Association

Website: [http://y-shuzo.com](http://y-shuzo.com)

**Emblem for GI HAGI**

A delta at the estuary of the Abugawa River

Views of fields on flat tablelands

Harvesting rice in a community initiative

Traditional white walls and white plaster namako walls of the Hagi castle town

Hagi/Merin school building
Geographical Indication
“佐賀(Saga)”
(Designated in June 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>佐賀(Saga)</td>
<td>Saga Prefecture</td>
<td>清酒(Seishu/Sake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These mellow sake varieties feature a distinct savory flavor derived from the plump rice that goes into them

In general, the sake of Saga is known for its robust savory flavor that originates with the plump rice it is made from. It has a mellow taste and texture, with a special sweetness that is also a hallmark of this type of rice. As such, these sake varieties go well with food, especially relatively rich food. They are also a perfect match for sweet-and-spicy food seasoned with soy sauce, since soy sauce is rich in both sweet and umami savory flavors.

Climate/natural characteristics of Saga, and initiatives to boost quality and branding

Saga Prefecture, located in the northwestern part of Kyushu, is comprised of the Sefuri Mountains stretching from the northeast to the central part of the prefecture, and the Tara Mountains to the southwest. In addition, the Saga Plain, stretching from the southern part of the Sefuri Mountains to the Ariake Sea, has warm weather year-round. As such the area is home to numerous rice fields. The high-quality rice produced here, along with the underground streams flowing from the Sefuri Mountains and the Tara Mountains, has been used in sake-brewing since olden times.

In recent years, Saga Prefecture has worked to further boost the quality of the region, for example by establishing the Saga Prefecture Product Origin Designation Committee, to certify sake products that meet “The Saga Certified Sake” criteria. It has also instituted an ordinance to encourage the use of Japanese sake from Saga Prefecture in toasting. In these and other ways, the municipal government has collaborated with the private sector to promote the Saga brand of sake.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Saga

**Ingredients**
- Rice and rice koji must be made in Japan.
- Water collected in Saga prefecture is used.

**Rules for GI Saga**
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Saga prefecture.

Control Body

To maintain the special characteristics implied by the “Saga” Geographical Designation, Management Commission for GI “Saga” confirms that the relevant products meet the criteria under the “Section on Ingredients and Production Methods for Alcoholic Beverages” under the Production Criteria for the Use of the Geographical Indication “Saga.”

Management Commission for GI “Saga”

Address: 6-14 Ekiminami Honmachi, Saga City
Saga Prefecture
Sake Brewers Association

Website: [http://www.sagasake.or.jp](http://www.sagasake.or.jp)
### Geographical Indication

**“奄美（Iki）”**
(Designated in June, 1995 / Revised February, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>奄美 (Iki)</td>
<td>Iki City, Nagasaki Prefecture</td>
<td>蒸留酒 (Spirits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ingredients and Rules for GI Iki

**Ingredients**
- Barley
- Rice koji
- The weight ratio of rice koji and grain used for the moromi must be approximately 1:2
- Water collected in Iki City in Nagasaki Prefecture

**Rules for GI Iki**
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Iki City in Nagasaki Prefecture
- Must ferment the first moromi made from rice koji and water, then further ferment main moromi made by adding steamed grain and water to the first moromi. After that, the main moromi must be distilled in a single distillation pot

### A Flavor with the Aroma of Wheat and the Sweetness and Thickness of Rice Koji

The single distilled shochu, “Iki”, has a refreshing aroma enhanced by barley and has bodied sweet flavor of rice koji. Moreover, “Iki” has a fresh mouthfeel enhanced by the water in Iki.

### Iki Island the Birthplace of Wheat Shochu

Iki City in Nagasaki Prefecture is located in the archipelago centered on Iki Island in the Genkai Sea to the north of Kyushu. Iki City is a region that has plentiful groundwater refined by its basalt layer over the years. The underground water in Iki City promotes fermentation, enhance flavor of “Iki” thick and stands out a fresh mouthfeel by using as “warimizu” (water added to shochu to adjust alcohol content).

Moreover, Iki City has the longest history to produced barley shochu in Japan. “Iki” is traditionally made from rice koji and barley for ratio of 1:2. This traditional method of production is one of the factors that have firmly established the characteristics of “Iki”

### Control Body

The Iki Shochu Management Committee regularly conducts confirmation of whether “Iki” meets standard of “Matters Concerning Ingredient and Producing Method of Liquor” in “Production Standard for GI “Iki” to maintain the characteristics of the GI “Iki”.

**Iki Shochu Control Committee**
Address: 639-3 Higashi Fure, Gonoura-cho, Iki City, Nagasaki Prefecture
Geographical Indication
“球磨(Kuma)”
(Designated in June, 1995 / Revised February, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>球磨(Kuma)</td>
<td>Kumamoto Prefecture's Kuma County and Hitoyoshi City</td>
<td>烟留酒(Spirits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rice Shochu with a Mellow Sweetness derived from Rice

The single distilled shochu, “Kuma”, has a refreshing aroma and a mellow sweetness enhanced by rice. “Kuma” produced by atmospheric distillation has a toasty aroma peculiar to rice. “Kuma” produced by vacuum distillation has a fruity aroma.

Kuma Basin's Climate/Natural Feature and the Kuma River System's Water well-suited to product Shochu

Kuma District and Hitoyoshi City in Kumamoto Prefecture are located in the Kuma Basin, surrounded by the Kyushu Mountains in the central part of Kyushu. The average temperature in winter is low and difference in temperature between daytime and nighttime is quite extreme despite low latitude in this area. There are many heavy foggy days that enables to ferment at relatively low temperature and store in favorable environment. This is why Kuma District and Hitoyoshi City are well-suited places to produce shochu with a refreshing aroma.

In addition, the water of Kuma River flowing through the Kuma Basin is soft and well-suited to produce shochu. “Kuma” takes advantage of this water to bring out a mellow sweetness derived from rice.

Ingredients and Rules for GI Kuma

**Ingredients**
- Rice and rice koji made in Japan
- Water collected in Kuma District and Hitoyoshi City in Kumamoto Prefecture

**Rules for GI Kuma**
- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Kuma District and Hitoyoshi City in Kumamoto Prefecture
- Must distill moromi fermented by rice, rice koji and water or by rice koji and water in a single distillation pot
- Note: Moromi fermented by rice koji and water must be made by adding rice koji and water to its first moromi and then further fermented

Control Body

The Kuma Shochu Management Committee regularly conducts confirmation of whether “Kuma” meets standard of “Matters Concerning Ingredient and Producing Method of Liquor” in “Production Standard for GI ‘Kuma’” to maintain the characteristics of the GI “Kuma”.

Kuma Shochu Management Committee
Address: 5-1 Fumoto-machi, Hitoyoshi City, Kumamoto Prefecture
**Geographical Indication “薩摩(Satsuma)”**
(Designated in December, 2005 / Revised February, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>薩摩(Satsuma)</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture (with the exception of Amami City and Oshima County)</td>
<td>薩摩酒(Spirits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sweet Potato Shochu with a Rich, Floral Aroma**

The single distilled shochu, “Satsuma”, is made from high-quality fresh sweet potatoes which can be obtained easily because Kagoshima Prefecture is also good sweet potato production area. “Satsuma” has a sweet flavor harmonized with its rich floral aroma, and has smooth mouthfeel even just after distilled.

![Sakurajima (Kagoshima City) and Drinking vessel of Kagoshima (Kurojoka)](image)

**Climate/Natural Feature in Kagoshima prefecture and efforts to improve production techniques.**

There are many regions with good drainage and those at low groundwater levels in Kagoshima Prefecture. Kagoshima Prefecture has been a well-suited place to grow sweet potatoes and has become the largest production area in Japan since mid-Edo period (1603-1868). That is why Kagoshima Prefecture maintaining supply of sweet potato is an ideal area for producing sweet potato shochu.

The production techniques for “Satsuma” are largely developed and disseminated, which is taken lead by the Kagoshima Prefecture Industrial Technology Center. Shochu Education and Research Center for Fermentation in Kagoshima University also conducts research development and human resource development for sweet potato shochu.

**Ingredients and Rules for GI Satsuma**

**Ingredients**

- Sweet potatoes produced in Kagoshima Prefecture*
- Rice koji or sweet potato koji made from sweet potatoes
- Water collected in Kagoshima Prefecture*

![Kogane Sengan (sweet potato)](image)

**Rules for GI Satsuma**

- Must be produced, stored and bottled in Kagoshima Prefecture*
- Must distill moromi fermented by koji, sweet potatoes and water in a single distillation pot

* except Amami City and Oshima District

![Satsuma shochu declaration](image)

**Control Body**

The Satsuma Shochu Management Committee regularly conducts confirmation of whether “Satsuma” meets standard of “Matters Concerning Ingredient and Producing Method of Liquor” in “Production Standard for GI ‘Satsuma’” to maintain the characteristics of the GI “Satsuma”.

**Satsuma Shochu Control Committee**

Address: 8-15 Kinkocho, Kagoshima City
**Geographical Indication**

“琉球（Ryukyu）”

(Designated in June, 1995 / Revised February, 2018 / Revised September, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>琉球 (Ryukyu)</td>
<td>Okinawa Prefecture</td>
<td>蒸留酒 (Spirits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Rich Taste Derived From Rice Koji**

Ryukyu is a distilled spirit made by distilling moromi comprising rice koji and water fermented in a single distillation pot using black koji mold. In particular, kusu (koshu) (aged shochu stored for three years or more) produced by atmospheric distillation has dense aroma which is harmonious mixture of sweet vanilla aroma and matsutake mushroom aroma originating from rice with enzymes from black koji mold.

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**Characteristics of Ryukyu Produced by Black Koji and a dense Flavor Nurtured by Okinawa's Water**

Although the environment of Okinawa Prefecture is hot and humid with high rainfall, black koji—which generates more citric acid than other koji molds—promotes healthy fermentation, and the variety of different ingredients generated by the black koji create the special characteristics of Ryukyu. Furthermore, the water in Okinawa Prefecture is hard with a high mineral content. This promotes the growth of microorganisms, which creates rich, dense flavors. During the time of the Ryukyu Kingdom (1429–1879), the people of Okinawa acquired skills and technologies through cultural exchanges with trading partners in other countries, and the methods for producing distilled liquor were introduced from Southeast Asia and the Chinese continent over 500 years ago. Okinawa has a tradition of aging spirits for a number of years after distillation. Spirits that have been aged for three years or longer are called kusu (koshu), and the well-established traditional technique for nurturing kusu is known as shitsugi.

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**Ingredients and Rules for GI Ryukyu**

**Ingredients**

- Rice koji produced by black koji which belongs to Aspergillus luchuensis
- Water collected in Okinawa Prefecture

**Rules for GI Ryukyu**

- Must be fermented, distilled, stored and bottled in Okinawa Prefecture
- Must distill moromi fermented by rice koji and water in a single distillation pot

**Matters relating liquor classes**

- Pot distillation shochu, material alcohol

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**Control Body**

The GI Ryukyu Management Committee regularly conducts confirmation of whether “Ryukyu” meets standard of “Matters Concerning Ingredient and Producing Method of Liquor” in “Production Standard for GI ‘Ryukyu’” to maintain the characteristics of the GI “Ryukyu”.

**GI Ryukyu Management Committee**

Address: 2-8-9 Minatomachi, Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture
Geographical Indication
“日本酒 (Nihonshu)”
(Designated in December, 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Liquor Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>日本酒 (Nihonshu) (Japanese Sake)</td>
<td>The entire country of Japan</td>
<td>清酒 (Seishu/Sake)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Nihonshu” (Japanese Sake) is regarded as a special liquor products from rice, a staple and precious food in Japan. In addition to daily consumption, people drink “Nihonshu” on special occasions such as traditional festivals, annual events, weddings, and funerals. “Nihonshu” is deeply rooted in Japanese culture and tradition. Hence “Nihonshu” was designated as Geographical Indication by the National Tax Agency of JAPAN in December of 2015.

Benefits of designation
Only sake produced in Japan using Japanese-grown rice is entitled to the exclusive use of the term “Nihonshu”.

1. Makes it much easier for consumers to distinguish “Nihonshu” from other sake exist in domestic market that are produced outside Japan or made from rice grown in countries other than Japan. These other liquor products are prohibited from using the term “Nihonshu”.

2. Makes it easy to impress consumer with that “Nihonshu” is a high-quality and reliable Japanese liquor products.

3. Even in overseas differentiation between “Nihonshu” and other sake produced outside Japan will be possible by encouraging protection of GI “Nihonshu” in many countries through international negotiation produced. Make it possible to enhance the brand value of “Nihonshu”.

(Note) If GI “Nihonshu” label is given on containers or packing, it is not required to contains “the indication which make it clear that it is the GI” using terms such as “地理的表示”、“Geographical Indication” or “GI”.

This greatly contributes to the stimulation of domestic market for “Nihonshu” and promotes exports to overseas.

To protect the geographical indication of liquor overseas

The geographical indication system for liquor products is a system recognized as an intellectual property right by the WTO/TRIPS Agreement and is an effective system for protecting its name overseas. The NTA is working through international negotiations to ensure that the geographical indications of Japanese liquors are properly protected.

- In the EU / EPA that became effective in February 2019, Mutual protection of the geographical indication of liquor has been achieved.

- In the Trade Agreement Between Japan and The United States of America that became effective in January 2020, The United States of America Promised to proceed with examination procedures for the protection of geographical indications of Japanese Liquors.

- The mutual protection of the geographical indications of liquors has been realized through the Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which came into effect in January 2021.

A list of GIs designated by the Commissioner of the National Tax Agency and a list of GIs for which mutual protection has been agreed are available on the National Tax Agency of Japan website. Please refer to https://www.nta.go.jp/english/taxes/liquor_administration/geographical/02.htm