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Resort & small luxury hotel special

Be it a forest getaway nestled in the Fuji Five Lakes area or an idyllic island paradise to the south, Japan's natural wonders are on full display at these scenic locations. In addition to stunning landscapes, fresh seasonal cuisine laden with local ingredients awaits travelers searching for a balance of extravagance and nature.



Quiet luxury fused with the great outdoors

Located in the beautiful Lake Kawaguchi area in Yamanashi Prefecture, the Fufu Kawaguchiko hotel will open on Oct. 1. Lake Kawaguchi was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2013 as part of Mount Fuji's surrounding environment. Known to be the only one among the Fuji Five Lakes with an island and a bridge, Lake Kawaguchi is a popular destination for both Japanese and international travelers. Nearby tourist attractions such as the Kawaguchiko Music Forest Museum and *onsen* (hot spring) day spas also make for exceptional day outings.

The new petit luxury hotel's design dissolves the boundaries between the cozy indoors and rich nature surrounding Mount Fuji and Lake Kawaguchi. Notably, balconies designed to merge the indoors with the surrounding landscape also boast large windows for natural lighting, and each suite's living room combines comfort with the ambiance of the wilderness. The hotel's 32 suites are all tailored to inspire deep calmness and relaxation. Likewise, the theater-style restaurant has an astonishing view of Mount Fuji. Seated before such a picturesque backdrop, guests can savor delightful Koshu beef and pork accompanied by perfectly paired wines.

Dishes are prepared with hand-picked local ingredients, following the concept of "forest-themed ingredients on a wood-fired grill" to bring out the best of the nearby nature.

Fuji spring water, berries, herbs, Koshu beef and pork and vegetables, all nurtured in the crisp, fine air, are used. Superb wines from Koshu and famous



Above: The Fufu Kawaguchiko hotel, against a backdrop of Mount Fuji and located in the beautiful area of Lake Kawaguchi, will open on Oct. 1. The new, petit luxury hotel's design dissolves the boundaries between the cozy indoors and rich nature. Right: All 32 rooms of the hotel are suites, where guests can find relaxation in comforting tranquility.



distillers around the world accent these aromatic, mouthwatering delicacies. Fufu Kawaguchiko's signature dishes include Koshu pork grilled on Mount Fuji lava rock plates paired with an exceptional sauce using local berries; rice cooked in a pot

with Mount Fuji *masu* (salmon); and dashi soup using wild beef, pork and greens. No matter the time of year, Fufu Kawaguchiko strives to present the best of each season through exquisite cuisine and more.

Serene getaway offers a step into the past

The Hoshinoya Taketomi Island hotel is located on Taketomi Island, a tiny jewel surrounded by clear blue waters and graced with breathtaking skies, white sand beaches and traditional buildings with red-tiled roofs. The hotel offers guests unique accommodations, relaxation at the spa and cuisine inspired by the local architecture, lifestyle and ingredients.

A mere 10 minutes by ferry from Ishigaki Island, the transportation hub of the Yaeyama archipelago, Taketomi Island is a step back in time. Guests can explore the traditional village via bicycle or water buffalo-drawn cart, enjoy unique festivals, handicrafts and dream-like diving and snorkeling.

The hotel's guest pavilions reflect the traditional architecture found on the island. Open-air living areas face south, overlooking a private yard that welcomes the ocean's refreshing breezes. Roofs are decorated with red tiles and *shisa* statues, the lionlike guardians believed to ward off evil spirits.

The hotel has three guest pavilions — Zuki, Gajoni and Kyangi. Zuki, which can house three guests, is perfect for families, whereas Gajoni is for two, featuring a king-sized bed, spacious living area, a comfortable sofa and a large bathtub.

Both Zuki and Gajoni have a living room that offers complete relaxation, with a comfortable sofa facing a private garden and calming breezes drifting through the space. Guests can also soak in a deep tub, washing away the day's stress while listening to the trees sway and the birds sing.

Kyangi can accommodate up to two peo-



Top: The Hoshinoya Taketomi Island hotel's guest pavilion reflects the traditional architecture found on the island. Bottom left and right: The tatami room and spa offers complete relaxation.

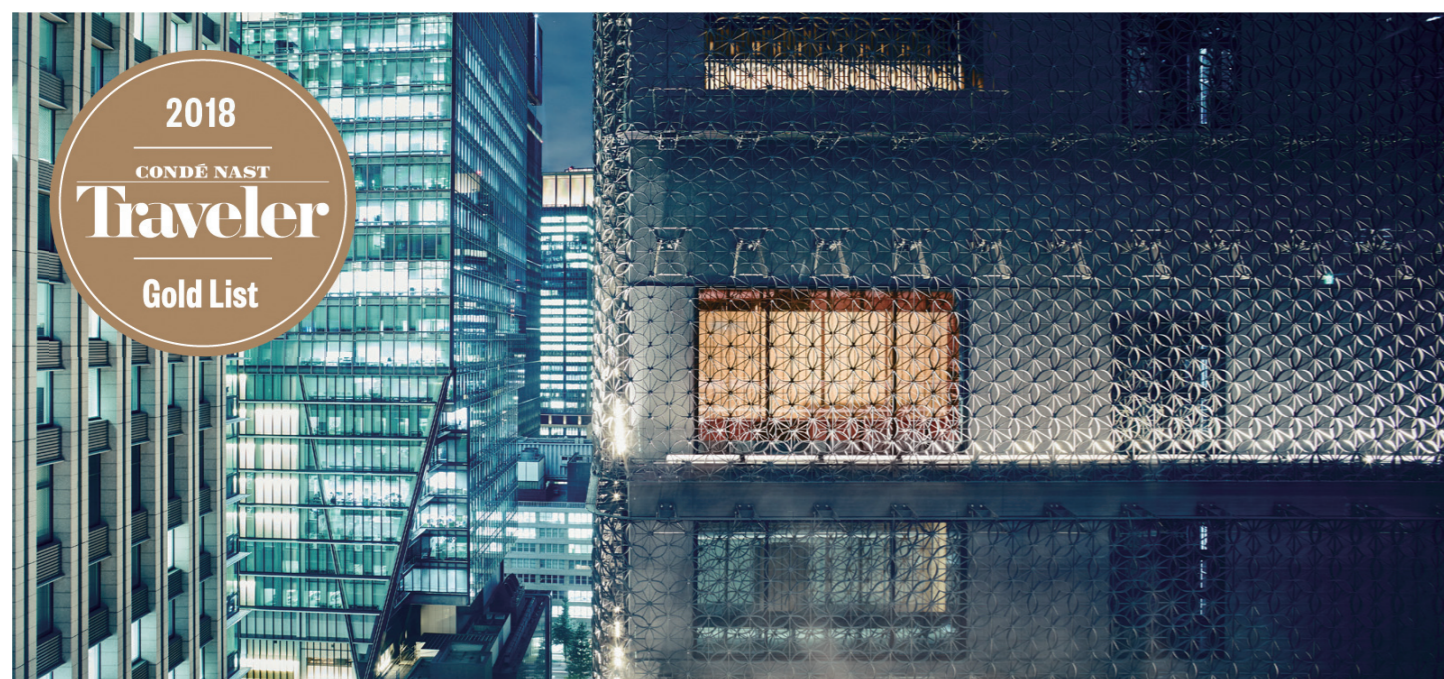
ple, with king-sized futons available upon request. Soft tatami covers its interior, while a sheet of white sand blankets the garden, reflecting gentle light into the pavilion. The hotel's restaurant features top-quality French cuisine using the island's

numerous fish and shellfish such as Japanese tiger prawn that are brought in fresh every morning. These ingredients, in addition to locally grown beef, vegetables and herbs, feature prominently in the delectable dishes.



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