

Iizukatei, Tochigi Prefecture



The only tangible cultural property in eastern Japan to be renovated into lodgings open to the public, a stay at Iizukatei is an exclusive experience. Traditional Meiji-era houses — including a few kura storehouses — have been refurbished into luxurious and spacious accommodations to call home for a night, a week, or even longer. Historic accents are preserved where possible and enhanced by modern amenities to offer guests the freedom of preparing

their own food. Naturally, the hotel is happy to provide locally sourced sustenance if requested. Using their extensive connections with Nakagawa-machi residents, Iizukatei staff organize encounters with locals at farmhouses and offer guidance to explore artisanal Koisago ware pottery studios, art forests and museums in the area [p62-63].

More info: iizukatei.ohtawaragt.co.jp

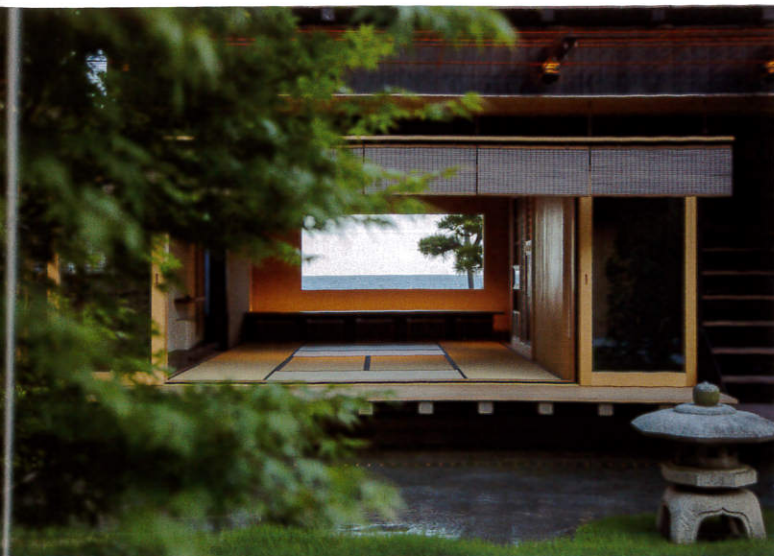
Kishi-ke, Kanagawa Prefecture

Embrace the spirit of Zen with a memorable stay at Kishi-ke, a private oceanside resort in the ancient city of Kamakura. Chisoku, a Zen Buddhist concept of contentment, is the ryokan's guiding precept. Every element — from the manicured landscape garden to the blend of contemporary and traditional touches — contributes to the feeling of being separated from the outside world. With a

maximum of one group per night, guests can expect personalized service and curated experiences. Zen mindfulness sessions, tea ceremony practices and katana swordsmanship lessons are just some of the activities that can be arranged. For dinner, guests can dine at one of Kamakura's fine eateries or invite a private chef to prepare a meal onsite. Top off the evening by watching the sun sink into the

ocean from the rooftop balcony, before slipping into the ryokan's hinoki cypress bath. As it fills, the natural wood imbues the bathroom with an intoxicating earthy aroma to soothe both mind and body.

More info: kishi-ke.co.jp



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