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When Tokyo slows down: Khaled Iwamura uncovers its hidden beauty



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Tokyo is known for its flashing neon lights and bustling crowds, but there's another side of the city that moves at a slower pace. On this journey, Khaled Iwamura uncovers three very different faces of Tokyo: a remote volcanic island, quiet mountain towns, and the cultural heartbeat of the city itself.

Tama

Just an hour from downtown, Tokyo transforms into valleys, rivers, and small mountain towns.

In Okutama, Khaled follows a cold stream to a hidden wasabi farm. Two brothers are rebuilding it stone by stone after a typhoon, growing wasabi the way it used to be: sharp, pure, and rooted in silence.

In Hachioji, Khaled plants rice at Tokyo Hachioji Craft Sake Brewery before tasting the crisp sake made from it. "When you drink it, you taste the soil, the water, and the effort," he reflects.

Lunch is a steaming bowl of ramen at Chukasoba Goemon, a ten seat shop serving broth perfected since 1996. Topped with crunchy raw onions, a Hachioji signature, it's

simple and unforgettable.

Later in Ome, he dips cloth into indigo vats at Indigo Dyeing Studio Kosoen, where artisans have created the deep “Japan Blue” for centuries. The dye even returns to the soil to nourish vegetables.

The evening ends at Ukai Toriyama, a hidden village of traditional houses surrounded by centuries old gardens. Charcoal roasted chicken and wagyu beef are served in open air rooms where smoke drifts through the trees.

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Savour the essence of autumn in blissful style ~ Afternoon Tea & Ensemble ~ Sorano Hotel



Following Sorano Hotel's popular strawberry and mango flavours, this September, look forward to their third flavour designed to capture the essence of autumn. They present a special *Afternoon Tea and Ensemble* inspired by autumnal colours. Spend your time in elegance and luxury enveloped in the rich aromas of the harvest season and succulent sweetness of fresh grapes.

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