



powderlife

NISEKO ニセコ

Issue 29 // Dec 25 – Jan 7 // 2010

WINTER SPORTS * ENTERTAINMENT * REAL ESTATE

www.powderlife.com

NEIL HARTMANN

Man behind the lens

NIKKO

Ultimate Japanese cultural experience

RESORT GUIDE

Your guide to Niseko – page 42

FREE

NISEKO'S POWDER
LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE
FRESH EVERY
2 WEEKS



Ski-in, ski-out luxury at the top of the village.

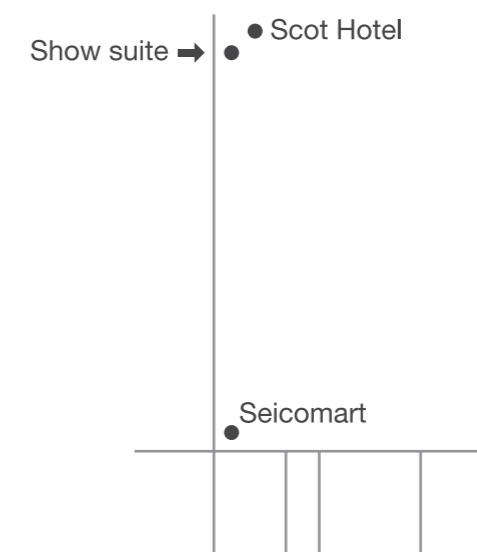
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of ski-in / ski-out properties.

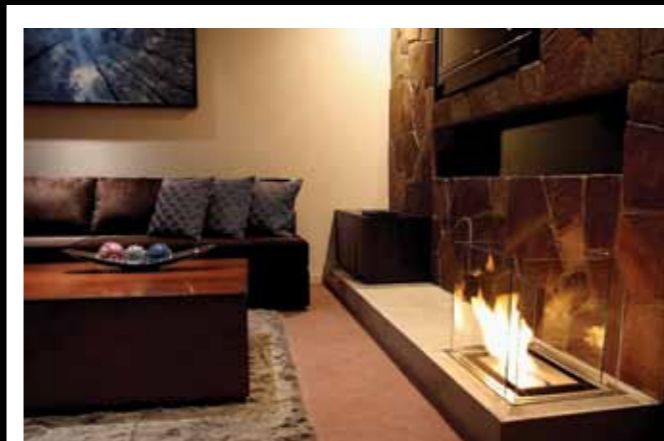




Indulge



Immerse



Unwind



Rejuvenate

...tomorrow, another perfect powder day.

the vale furano

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Nikko

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NISEKO ニセコ

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COVER PHOTO FROM 'BLUETIFUL' BY NEIL HARTMANN
rider kazushi yamauchi// photo neil hartmann

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* EDITOR'S NOTE



photography // niseko photography

LAST year's Christmas Powderlife boasted reports of the infamous Niseko Powder Express pulling into town. By the time this magazine hits the streets (Christmas Day), hopefully we will have experienced the same. For locals and those abroad, it's been an anticipated and long wait for snow.

Despite Mother Nature doing things her own way that not even the best weather reporters can explain, we're not going to let her deter our hopes for a great season. Admittedly though, seasonal workers and guests have been disappointed by the slow start. On the bright side of this, is the opportunity to explore the other attractions around the area such as the onsens, snowshoeing, hiking, the many restaurants and bars, and other resorts in the area. Check out *Powderlife's* Discover section on page 11.

Our feature story this issue profiles film legend Neil Hartmann – no stranger to Hokkaido's incredible snow. He moved to Hokkaido in 1991 after working as a juggler and comedian in his hometown of San Diego. Since moving here, Neil has firmly planted his name in Japan's film industry with his amazing *Car Danchi* film series. For those of you who haven't seen any of these films, they are a great insight into Hokkaido snow life.

Moving away from Hokkaido is *Powderlife's* travel story featuring Kutchan's partnering tourism city Nikko – a two-hour train ride from Tokyo. This city is steeped in tradition and is a great side trip if you're heading to this part of Japan. We've also started our EyeSpy section featuring local and national artists. From all at *Powderlife*, enjoy your Christmas and time in Niseko.

Lizzy Hoo, Powderlife, Managing Editor, email lizzy@powderlife.com

昨年のクリスマスは、待ちに待った積雪予報にパウダーライフ一同、喜々としたクリスマスでした。そして、本誌が街に並ぶ今年のクリスマスにも同じ事を期待しています。今年は「待ち時間」がなんと長いことでしょうか。山一面の真っ白な雪こそ、皆さんが待ち望むクリスマスプレゼントとなることでしょう。

優れた気象予報士でさえも予測が不可能な「母なる自然」ですが、今年も私たちの望む素晴らしいシーズンをきっと届けてくれるはず。もっとも、今年はシーズン始めの雪不足により、シーズンalワーカーや観光客は失望し始めています。しかし、温泉やスノーシューイング、ハイキングなど、ニセコではさまざまなアクティビティーを楽しむことができます。それらに関しては本誌11ページをご参照ください。

今号の特集記事では、ニセコで映画伝説を創り上げたニール・ハートマン氏を紹介しています。ハートマン氏は北海道の素晴らしい雪の大ファンでもあります。地元サンディエゴで曲芸師、コメディアンとして働いた後、1991年に北海道へ移って来られました。そして、有名な「車団地シリーズ」で日本のスキー・スノーボード映画業界にニール・ハートマンの名をはせられました。北海道のスノーライフを知るには最適のこのフィルム(全4シリーズ)をまだ見てない方は必見です。

そのほか、「Travel」コーナーでは、倶知安町と日光市の『観光パートナー都市協定』に関する記事を掲載しています。伝統と文化にあふれる日光は東京から電車で2時間という便利なロケーションにあるので、東京方面に行く際の小旅行にいかがでしょうか。最後に、新コーナー「EyeSpy」では地元や国内の芸術家を紹介しています。このコーナーで紹介して欲しい方などおられましたら本誌までご連絡ください。パウダーライフ一同より、皆さんがクリスマスを、そしてニセコで過ごされる時間を楽しまれます様に願っています。

リズィー・フー, パウダーライフ, 編集長, lizzy@powderlife.com



Final construction may vary slightly from image

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MAINSTREET REMODEL STARTING 2011
 THE NEW **HIRAFU MAIN STREET** coming soon

* VILLAGE NEWS



RHYTHM RENOVATIONS

RHYTHM Snowsports relocated and renovated its new home last summer.

THIS move saw Rhythm Snowsports move from a small premise underneath Sekka Café to a giant, two-story megastore at the bottom of Hirafu-zaka. The renovation of Berg Plaza, the former location of Yukara Souvenir Shop and Tozanken Ramen, took several months and the sweat and tears of many local hands,

but the results show.

The store is split between two levels, with the top level focussing on snowboarding gear and apparel, and the lower floor catering to the needs of skiers. There is an extensive range of hire equipment in store too, as well as some cheap ex-rental hardware.

Popular brands stocked include Armada, Rossignol, Stepchild, Burton, Libtech, Bonfire and The North Face.

To keep you going while shopping, there is Gloorious Coffee, the newly installed café within the shop, serving up delicious Lavazza coffee.



DON'T MENTION THE WEATHER

THE weather has been a sore point here, and no matter how many times veterans reassure newcomers that, "the snow will come, it always comes" there are still a few confused and disbelieving faces. Recently, strong Southerly winds have been bringing up the warmth, instead of the usual northerly winds pulling down the cold Siberian air. Niseko's comparatively low elevation, coupled with its low latitude makes Niseko dependent on the generally reliable Siberian winds. But, just as this issue went to print, a strong storm has hit town and things are looking very white outside.

COFFEE BETTER THAN BEER?

THIS season, as with most seasons, sees a few new drinking establishments opening for the first time. Cafes are in vogue this season and there are at least three new places to get your caffeine fix: Fresh, Java Lounge and Gloorious Coffee (inside Rhythm Snowsports). This year also sees a few watering holes that didn't reopen including The Bunker, Yuki Bar and Herbie's Umbrella Bar.



LOCAL VOICES

Name Shaun Widger **Age** 25 **Hometown** Sydney, Australia **Time in Niseko?** Since September, 2009 **Ski or board and for how long?** Board, twice **Favourite Restaurant?** Campagna, Sapporo **Favourite Bar?** Jam Bar **Favourite Onsen?** Grand Hotel **Favourite Course?** Family **Local Secret?** Rakuichi Soba **Place to ski before you die?** Niseko [honestly].

名前 ショーンウィッジャー **年齢** 25歳 **出身地** シドニー、オーストラリア **ニセコ年数** 昨年9月からスキー、スノーボード歴 二回(スノーボード) **お気に入りのレストラン** カンパニャー 札幌 **お気に入りのバー** ジャムバー **お気に入りの温泉** グランドホテル **お気に入りのゲレンデコース** ファミリーコース **ニセコの秘密** 楽市そば **死ぬ前にいきたいスキー場** ニセコ (本当に)



Name Yuko Horiguchi **Age** 30 **Hometown** Chiba (next to Tokyo) **Time in Niseko** 8 years **Ski or board and for how long?** Snowboard, 12 years **Favourite restaurant?** Kumagorou Café **Favourite bar?** SPLASH **Favourite onsen?** Niseko Goshiki **Favourite ski run?** Super course **Local secret?** People here are free and don't have to act their age **Place to ski before you die?** Whistler, Canada.

名前 ホリグチ ユウコ **年齢** 30歳 **出身地** 千葉県 **ニセコ年数** 8年 **スキー、スノーボード歴** 12年(スノーボード) **お気に入りのレストラン** くまごろう、ひらふーる **お気に入りのバー** SPLASH **お気に入りの温泉** ニセコ五色温泉 **好きなゲレンデコース** 2壁、スーパーコース **ニセコの秘密** 年齢不詳の大人がいっぱいいる **死ぬ前にいきたいスキー場** カナダのスキー場

The Ultimate World-Class Year-Round Destination



Freehold Title



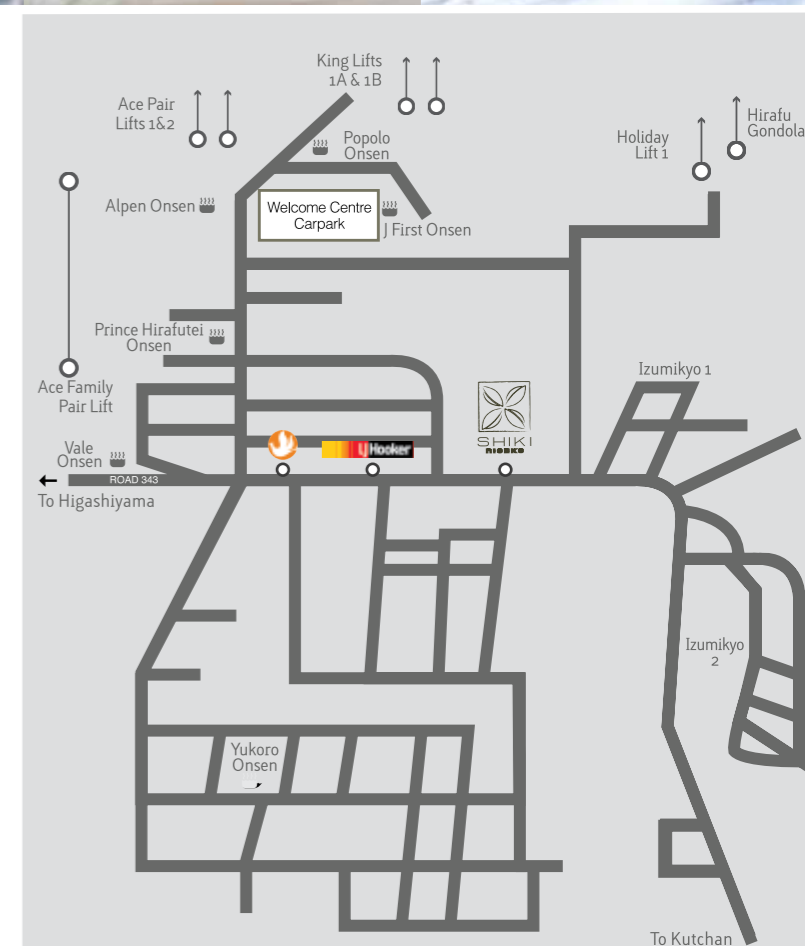
Shiki Niseko offers 69 limited units with contemporary design complete with premium furnishing and fittings. Adding to this is the breathtaking views of Mount Yotei, the Hirafu ski slopes and nearby creek, Shiki Niseko boasts of a strategic location amidst the neighbourhood of restaurants, eateries, bars and retails outlets, all herald a lifestyle well beyond the ordinary...

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* DISCOVER

EXPLORE KUTCHAN

KUTCHAN is more than just Niseko's gateway and service town. It's an interesting place to walk around, do some general shopping and enjoy a change of scenery from the ski-resort feel in Hirafu.

Kutchan has a very lively entertainment district and there are dozens of restaurants, bars and other drinking establishments in high concentration near Miyako-dori. Buses frequently run between Hirafu and Kutchan Station.



- 01) EAT**
TRY Potato Udon: Kutchan is famous for its potatoes and Daiichi Kaikan Hotel has udon made from local potatoes.
- 02) DRINK**
SING Karaoke! It's a must-do while in Japan. Hire a private room for you and your friends and find out why Karaoke is so popular here.
- 03) DO**
TAKE a Japanese Cultural Tour: Tea ceremony, saké-brewery tour, taiko drumming laido sword demonstration and a Japanese dinner. See p.49.
- 04) SHOP**
WANDER Walk around the small alleys around Kutchan Station and find some unique souvenirs in interesting shops.



GANBANYOKU

GANBANYOKU, which means 'stone bath' is very vogue with health-conscious Japanese.

THIS detoxifying treatment involves lying on heated stones in the provided pyjamas for up to an hour. These heated stones raise your internal body temperature and radiate about 40°C of sweat-inducing heat. It's recommended that you lie for 20 minutes at a time on your back and

then your front. The sweat that this produces is said to be one that is different to that produced during exercise – it's a cleaner sweat, and apparently if you lick it it won't taste salty.

Lying on a hard hot rock for up to an hour requires mental as well as physical stamina. It's a process that is very sensory devoid, giving you plenty of time to stop, relax and think. There is a Ganbanyoku at the Alpen Hotel at the top of Hirafu Zaka. And after visiting the Ganbanyoku make sure you drink plenty of water.

INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING



ROCK climbing is a great activity that helps you build incredible muscle strength. The Niseko Adventure Centre (NAC) has the one and only indoor rock-climbing facility in the area, perfect if the weather is bad, or if you just feel like a break from skiing or snowboarding. The two-story climbing wall has multiple routes to suit beginners or challenge the skilled. You will be completely harnessed and supervised should you make a mistake while climbing. A session costs ¥1200, and climbing gear can be rented for ¥500. Afterwards, you can head upstairs for a healthy treat at JoJo's Cafe.

SOUP CURRY

SAID to be a Hokkaido speciality (and we're not brave enough to dispute that), soup curry is a delicious meal that will warm you to your very core for quite some time afterwards. It has a base reminiscent of Japanese-style curry, though in a soup-medium and with a few extra spices thrown in to make it interesting. Variations and restaurants are plentiful, with most shops offering their own delicious flavour. Most places allow you to pick your level of spice too – often this ranges from 0 to 20. Highly recommended for a complete Hokkaido experience.



No one knows Niseko like we do.

Operating throughout Niseko's four wonderful seasons, our friendly, bilingual staff ensure the best experience for visitors to Niseko.

With extensive local knowledge and partnerships and a diverse range of accommodation, we can tailor a 'Niseko Discovery' to suit all budgets.

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* IN THE LOOP

DEC 2010

25 **Disco Dancing Night**
ディスコ・ダンシング・ナイト

A little louder than regular nights, come enjoy dancing to disco, R&B, soul and Rock'n'roll.
いつもよりちょっぴり大きめの音楽でディスコ、R&B、ソウル、ロックンロールでダンスをお楽しみください。

Start // 9pm
Place // Half Note
Contact // 0136 23 2727

26 **Boxing Day Break Beats and Cold Cuts**
ボクシングデーファンキーミュージックパーティー

Meats, salads and that hair of the dog cocktail vibe we've grown to love as well as dj's playing funky breakbeats.
スペシャルカクテルをセットした食事をDJがセレクトしたファンキーな音楽と共に楽しんでください。

Start // 7pm
Place // blo*blo
Contact // 0136 22 1269



28 **Japanese Cultural Tour**
日本文化体験ツアー

This four-and-a-half hour tour will take you to various cultural attractions in Kutchan: Tea ceremony, Laido sword demonstration, Taiko drum performance, sake brewery tour and a Japanese dinner. See advert p.49
Adults ¥5000 / Children ¥3000
Reservations by 11am that day.

Start // 3pm
Place // Seicomart car park
Contact // 0136 23 0222



29 **Reggae Music Party**
King of Yanchastar Vol. 1

The first party of the season at Yosaku, with reggae DJs and dancers from around Hokkaido. ¥1000 Entry
ダンス、サウンド陣共に超豪華!日本人の勢いを見せつけちゃいましょう!

Start // 9pm - 4am
Place // Yosaku
Contact // 0136 23 4390

30 **Pool Tournament**
ビリヤードトーナメント

Pool Tournament @ Bar Splash - Bar Splash's rules. ¥1000 Entry
ビリヤードのトーナメントをスプラッシュでやっちゃいます。腕前を披露できるこの時をお見逃しなく。

Start // 9pm
Place // Bar Splash
Contact // 0136 55 8228

JAN 2011

1 **First Sunrise Gondola**
初日の出ゴンドラ

A very unique opportunity to watch the rising sun at Niseko Village on the first day of the year. Return ticket ¥1000.
ニセコビレッジで、特別な初日の出を見に行きませんか。ゴンドラ往復料金1000円

Start // 6:15am - 7am
Place // Niseko Village
Contact // 0136 44 2211

2 **New Year Poko Session**
ニューイヤーポコセッション

Small kicker available to kids and adults at beginners park and traditional mochi making ceremony will take place in Hanazono 308
Entrance Free (Limited to first 80 entries)
小さなキッカーで子供から大人まで皆が楽しめます。餅つき大会あり。参加無料(先着80名)

Start // 9:30am
Place // Hanazono 308
Contact // 0136 23 0913

1-3 **Annapuri First Run**
アンヌプリ・ファーストラン

Annapuri ski resort early morning gondola, operating from 7am - 8:20am ¥1000.
一般営業前のノートラック・グルーミングバーンを滑走。料金¥1,000。

Start // 7am - 8:20am
Place // Annapuri Ski Resort
Contact // 0136 58 2080 (Japanese only)



1-3 **Free Hot Milk Service**
ホットミルクサービス

You can get warm with free fresh hot milk from a local farm!
元旦から3日までの間、地元の牧場で朝しぼりたての牛乳をホットミルクにして無料サービス@アンヌプリスキー場。

Start // 10am
Place // Annapuri Ski Resort
Contact // 0136 58 2080 (Japanese only)



NYE EVENTS

4 **Nightvision**
ナイトビジョン

Get creative and bring along some crazy eyewear to Yeti Bar for a fun night of cheap drinks and great music
スペシャルドリンクと音楽で、クレイジーな仮面パーティーをやっちゃいます。

Start // 8pm
Place // Yeti Bar
Contact // 080 4040 4470



31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES**

Countdown Party @ Niseko Village
松明滑走・新年カウントダウン花火 @ ニセコヴィレッジ
Time: from 9pm
Details: Watch hundreds of skiers with flaming torches ski down the hill then celebrate the New Year's countdown with fireworks at 9:45pm.

Countdown Party @ Annapuri Ski Resort
松明滑走・新年カウントダウン花火 @ アンヌプリスキー場
Time: from 9pm
Details: Free riding on night-skiing area from 9-11:30pm. At 11:45 skiers and boarders with flaming torches ski down the hill. Afterwards, celebrate the New Year's countdown with fireworks.

Countdown Party @ Grand Hirafu
松明滑走・新年カウントダウン花火 @ ニセコグランヒラフ
Time: from 11pm
Details: Live music, Japanese drum performance, throwing 1000 rice cakes, countdown fireworks and the annual torch run with hundreds of skiers holding burning torches.

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* SNAP



GRAND HIRAFU FIRST LIFTS

LOCATION // GRAND HIRAFU

AFTER only two solid days of snow in late November, the lifts opened for the first time of the 2010/2011 season at 8.30am December 1st. There were only two courses open, an un-groomed Center course and the Family course, both with plenty of powder. Visibility was quite poor at the top of Ace Pair Lift #3, but it didn't dampen spirits too much, as evidenced Chewy (left picture) – the first one to make the lifts by two chair lengths.



Question // What do you love about Niseko?



ELLIOT and Victoria Fong from Singapore love Niseko's weather, food and, of course, skiing.



PETER Wilson from Byron Bay, Australia loves Niseko's powder snow and thinks it's a great place for a family holiday.



KELLY Dyball and Mike Chapman from Melbourne and Perth, Australia love Niseko's nightlife scene.



WAYNE and Sim Chang from Hong Kong love Niseko's compact and convenient layout.

INSKI STACK



WIN
ENTER TO WIN A HELMET FROM INSKI

ENTER TO WIN A HELMET FROM INSKI.

SUBMIT your gnarly crash story and the reason why you wear a helmet and/or need a new helmet to ross@powderlife.com. Entries are required to be 100 words or less and must be accompanied with valid contact information. We will be picking a winner every two weeks.

* FLASH



TAMASHII BAR

OPENING NIGHT //

THE worm, shimmy, sprinkler, running man and other moves that can not be described, were all present at Tamashii Bar's opening night thanks to sweet party tunes by Murray and Chris. PHOTOS // niseko photography



HANAZONO NISEKO JAPAN

FOR your chance to win a Hanazono Powder Guides First Tracks Tours for two, valued at ¥32,000, answer the following:

WIN
ENTER TO WIN A GUIDED TOUR

"Skiing vs boarding – tell us why you prefer one over the other."

Entrants will be judged on their level of humour and brutality. Send your entry to lizzy@powderlife.com

Get creative!



WILD BILL'S

OPENING PARTY //

A TYPICALLY wild party at Wild Bill's, fuelled by a three-hour all-you-can-drink and some fantastic music by 3 Skins and DJ Chris Holmes. These guys had people up and dancing on tables and chairs long into the night.



* IRRASHAIMASSE // “welcome!” – great local businesses

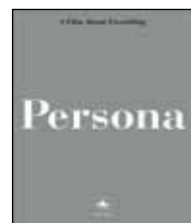


CHARCOAL YAKITORI DINING ENYA, Kutchan, Takeshi Yamamoto
MANY people are attracted to Niseko because of its year-round activities. Takeshi Yamamoto, owner of Charcoal Yakitori Dining Enya in Kutchan, is no different. Takeshi is from Osaka originally and worked in real-estate management before opening up his old restaurant Big Cliff (where Paddy's is now) and his current restaurant Enya in Kutchan. Enya literally translates to 'fire house' – he loves playing with fire and experimenting with charcoal to make the best smoke for his delicious yakitori. On any night, people can be found enjoying themselves at Enya. In the future, this Kutchan entrepreneur wants to continue to provide great hospitality and make customers happy with his great yakitori.

山本毅さん 炭火串焼ダイニング炎や 倶知安

多くの人が年間通して楽しめるニセコの魅力に引かれやってきます。大阪出身のサーファー山本毅さんもその一人でした。大阪での不動産経営術を元に1995年にビッククリフ(現在のパティーズ)、パレンパー、ボールズイン(バックパッカーズ)をニセコにオープン。2008年にビッククリフを開業するまでは、冬のスキーボード、夏のサーフトリップを銘一杯楽しんでたと言います。年間通して経営でき、またここニセコで築いてきた人脈があるから倶知安に炎やの開店を決めたという。炎が好きなんですとお店の名前の由来を教えてくださいました山本さん。そんな炎の魔術師が作る焼き鳥の絶妙な焼き加減、炭の香りがそれを物語っています。北海道一の店、味でもサービスでも喜んでもらえる店を目指すと言います山本さん。店内にあるカウンターやライトはビッククリフの物という、懐かしさと山本さんの笑顔に会話も弾むでしょう。

DVD REVIEWS



Persona – Ebis Films

AS the title alludes, this film has a very intimate and personal feel. It follows several Japanese skiers and riders in both summer and winter, getting a feel for their passion for snow. There are no flashy tricks, no slick editing, just people riding powder in Japan and loving every second of it. (Japanese only)



It Began – Coeur Film Factory

IT Began feels very much like the home movie that Japanese pro-snowboarders living in the Niseko area would make. This movie was made for the love of it, not due to sponsorship pressure. Mostly shot within the Niseko Resort area, this film may quickly turn into a competition for who can spot the locations first.

NISEKO YUBOKUMIN, Hirafu, Kunihiro Yoshikawa

RUNNING a lodge in Niseko is what Kunihiro Yoshikawa decided to do after working as a salary man in Sapporo. Before settling here 24 years ago, Kunihiro had been to Niseko many times; he even met his wife at the youth hostel in Niseko. His love for the area is based on skiing and the interesting people here that are connected through their love of the mountains. He also enjoys the customers who keep coming back to stay at his lodge every season. Kunihiro considers himself to be one of two types of people that live in Niseko: a business person or a true Niseko lover. He is, of course, the latter and will continue to live here, ski 120 days a year and make this a better place for his children.

吉川邦弘さん ニセコ遊牧民 ヒラフミドルビレッジ

福岡県出身の吉川邦弘さんが札幌でのサラリーマン生活を終え、遊牧民を始めたのが24年前。初めてニセコを訪れた時は今でいうバックパッカーの走りカニ族だった吉川さん。日本、世界中を旅してきた結果、お客さんが戻ってこれるような宿をやりたい、人を変える魅力がありたくさんの興味深い人々がいると、この土地に移住を決意。ニセコには2種類の人、ビジネスをしに来ている人、そして本当にニセコを愛してやまない人がいると話します。今でも年間120日間はスキーをするという吉川さんはもちろん後者であり、これから先もここに住み続けるでしょう。ニセコをもっと多くの人たちが楽しみ、戻って来たいと思わせる場所となしてほしい、地域に暮らす子供たちがもっとニセコから世界に羽ばたいていけるような教育環境を作って行きたいと、モーグルスキー選手の息子さんを持つ父親の顔をみせてくれた。

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Niseko Scheduled Transfer Services (Available 1 Dec thru 31 March)

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Departs Niseko	Arrives Airport	Departs Airport	Arrives Niseko	Departs Niseko	Arrives Sapporo
08:00	10:30	12:00	14:30	09:30	12:00
09:00	11:30	14:00	16:30	Sapporo City - Niseko	
10:00	12:30	16:30	19:00		
11:00	13:30	19:00	21:30	Departs Sapporo	Arrives Niseko
15:00	17:30	21:30	23:59	12:30	15:00
17:00	19:30				

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* FEATURE // neil hartmann

F not for a plan that involved moving to Japan to save money so he could return to the United States for film school, Neil Hartmann may have never created his legendary Car Danchi film series or his recently released photography book 'Bluetiful'.

His passion for the arts is something he's had since he was 12; he has always wanted to be a film director. His other passion was realised a while later when he pointed a borrowed Burton Performer straight under a lift into light and fluffy Hokkaido powder at Rusutsu Resort in 1985. Combining filmmaking and snowboarding with persistence and ambition, Neil created something many wannabe film directors hope for – a successful life in a foreign country, doing something he wholeheartedly loves everyday.

Describe a day in the life of Neil Hartmann?

If I am on location I will usually wake up between 4 or 5am in my car.

日本でお金をためて、アメリカに帰り映画学校に行く。この計画がなければニール・ハートマン氏(以下ニール)の有名な“車団地シリーズ”、または最近出された写真集“Bluetiful”の実現はなかったであろう。ニールは12歳のころから芸術に目覚め、いつの日か映画監督になるのが夢だったという。そして、1985年、ルスツリゾートでもうひとつ情熱を傾けられるものに会った。借り物のパートナーボードでふわふわの北海道の雪を体験した。その瞬間だった。映画監督への夢とスノーボードへの情熱。どうにかこの二つを結びつけられないかと試行錯誤した結果、ニールは映画監督への夢を持つ誰もがうらやむ人生を勝ち取った。映画監督として、外国で自分が心からやりたい事をする日々を送っている。

ニール・ハートマンとしての一日とは?

ロケ中ならたいてい車中泊。4時か5時に起床して、スープとコーヒーの準備をしながらスノーギアに着替えたりする。日中の良い光加減を逃したくないから撮影は早朝からスタートするね。日によっては夕暮れまで撮影することもあるよ。一日中、寒い外で撮影した後はいつも温泉で体を温めるようにしてる。

Heat up some soup and coffee while getting my gear on. We try to film while the light is good in the early morning hours, but depending on the situation a shoot can last until sunset. After a long day in the cold weather I try to always find an onsen to soak and warm up in.

What made you come to Japan?

I have half my family here in Japan. My father is a long-time expat living

“ I hope I have helped some people loosen up a bit. ”

in Sapporo and he was the one that encouraged me to come to Hokkaido after finishing high school.

How has Japanese culture changed you and what have you taken from it?

At the end of 2011, I will have been in Japan for half of my life. I think the biggest influence Japan has had on me would be in how I feel about design in general: product design, store design, home design and clothing design. The brands I work with like The North Face, Burton and Nike all make the coolest products exclusively for the Japanese market.

I think in the next few years we are going to see another

日本へ来たきっかけは?

僕の家族の半分は日本に住んでいるんだ。父は長い間、札幌に駐在している。高校を卒業した僕に北海道を勧めてくれたのは父だったんだ。

日本文化からの影響はある?

2011年の終わりで、僕は人生の半分を日本で過ごしたことになるんだ。日本に住むことによって一番影響されたのは一般的なデザインに関する考え方かな。例えば製品や店舗、家屋設計、服なんかのデザイン。ノースフェイスやパートナー、ナイキと一緒に仕事をするところもあるけど、どの会社も日本マーケットのみの格好良い製品を作っている。もしかすると、日本のデザインが世界を制覇するってこともありえると思う!

ニールが日本文化へ貢献したことは?

少しは日本の人々をリラックスさせたと思うよ。ラジオのDJをやっていたころ、良い音楽をかけて少しでも人を楽しませようとすごく頑張ったよ。また、車団地シリーズのDVDを作ることで、スノーボードがどんなものなのか、それを本気でやっている人々の生活はどんなものなのかを伝えられた。スノーボードに対しての人々の理解が深められたと思ってる。これからも日本文化とアメリカ文化の架け橋になりたいな。創造力を持続させるためには? コーヒー、寒い日に食べるラーメン。それに僕には多くの時間が必要なんだ。一人での時間、自分がやっている事が正しいのかを知るために人と接する時間。ビデオ編集をする時は徹底的にするから、一日に18時間も作業に没頭するよ。一度リズムをつかんだら、その部分を完成させるまで止めたくない。

* FEATURE // neil hartmann

wave of Japanese design taking over the world.

What do you think you've given to Japanese culture?

I hope I have helped some people loosen up a little bit. During my days as a radio DJ, I did my best to play music and shake people up. Through the snowboard DVD's and Car Danchi, I hope I helped change people's perceptions about what snowboarding and the lifestyle is really like. I hope I can continue to be a good gateway personality for both cultures.

How do you drive your creativity?

Coffee helps and hot ramen on a cold day works well too. For me, I need a lot of time and solitude combined with short bursts of interaction with other people to confirm that I am doing the right thing. The video-editing process is very intensive for me. I tend to work 18-hour

デジタル写真、コンピューター、ウェブサイト。多くのものから感性を刺激されているね。

どのような物・事に刺激される?

良い映画、特にドキュメンタリー。そのほか、雑誌を読むのも好きだし、収集したアナログレコードを聞くのも好き。スノーボード、スケートボード、山登りもね。行き詰まった時はネットでやらしいサイトを見るのも(笑)。

「これからも日本文化とアメリカ文化の架け橋になりたいな」

情熱をかけているものは?

ひとつ前の質問で答えたこと全て。やらしいサイトは違うよ(笑)。

ソーシャルメディアが大好きだとお聞きしましたが、それによる影響は?

今、僕はiPhoneでツイート、ブログ(neilhartmannlife.wordpress.com)をするのに熱中してる。こういうソーシャルメディア

days when video editing and tend to develop a rhythm. With digital photography, computers and the web – there is more than enough inspiration out there to push creativity.

What stimulates you?

Good films, especially documentary based stuff. I like magazines a lot. Listening to my analog record collection. Snowboarding, skateboarding, mountain hiking, and if I am desperate a little internet porn – ha ha!

You're a self-confessed "modern social animal" – how has social media changed you and what you do?

I love all the social media and all the changes that have come with it. Now that I have my iPhone, I am addicted to sharing a large portion of my life – tweeting, blogging (neilhartmannlife.wordpress.com), photo sharing whatever it takes. On the down side, the media industry

が世に出てきたのは楽しい事だと思うけど、欠点もあるよね。例えばメディア業界の低迷。youtubeによってDVDのセールスは大幅に落ちたそうだよ。

日常から逃れたい時に行くのはどこ?

山奥。それも数人の友人と携帯電話が届かない所へ行く。スノーシューで歩きながら、靴の下で雪がキュ、キュと鳴る音を聞く。

人生の中で一番達成感を得たものは? 二人の娘シエナとサフィアが誕生したこと。これを上回る事柄はないね。

人生の中で一番のチャレンジは? 創造力をどうにかビジネスにして、それを持続すること。

映画監督、写真家で尊敬する人は?

それはいないかな。でもプロの写真家として頑張っている人は誰でも尊敬する。映画監督も同じ。マイケル・ムーア、スパイク・ジョーンズ、スパイク・リー、デニス・ホッパー、タランティーノは大ファンだよ。

自身をラッキーだと思う? それとも、一生懸命ゴールに向かってる?

ラッキーって本当に一生懸命に働いてい



STAY DINE EXPERIENCE
a taste of hokkaido



J-SEKKA.COM

words by // lizzy hoo // photography by // neil hartmann // translation by // yuri pangier

continued from previous page

* FEATURE // neil hartmann

is struggling to keep up with the changing times. DVD sales have dropped dramatically since YouTube came on the scene.

Where do you take a break from life?

Deep in the mountains with just a few friends and no cell phone reception – just the sound of snow crunching underneath my snowshoes.

What's been your greatest achievement?

The birth of my two daughters Siena and Safia. Nothing can top that ever.

What's been your biggest challenge?

Trying to turn creativity into cash money and to keep it flowing.

Do you have photographic/film-maker idols?

Basically I don't have a photographic idol, I just have mad respect for anybody that has chosen the life

る人に起こるもの。だから僕はすごくラッキーだと言えるんじゃないかな。
他の映画監督へのアドバイスは？
とにかく一生懸命働くこと。多くの人が夢を持ち、成功を願うけど、結局行動を起こさない。日本で成功したいのなら、そのための準備を怠らないこと。日本のグローバルポジション、歴史を考えると、競争相手は日本人だけじゃないことが分かる。日本で働くすべての欧米人の写真家/映画監督と比較される。人より秀でるためには何か違うものを持ち、さまざまな技術を用意しておくことが大切だということだね。



of a professional photographer. And for film makers, I have a few names that I would say I am a big fan of – Michael Moore, Spike Jonze, Spike Lee, Dennis Hopper and Tarantino.

Do you think you're lucky or have you worked hard?

Luck only comes to those who have worked their asses off. So yes I am very lucky.

What's some advice you could give to other filmmakers or photographers trying to 'make it'?

Work your f##king ass off. I see a lot of people wanting success but just not putting in the hours needed. If you want to succeed in Japan you had best be prepared to work. Due to Japan's global position and history, everyone here not only has to compete with the local Japanese competition, you will also get compared to every other North American and European photographer/filmmaker out there. You have to step up your game and be prepared to be the whole package.

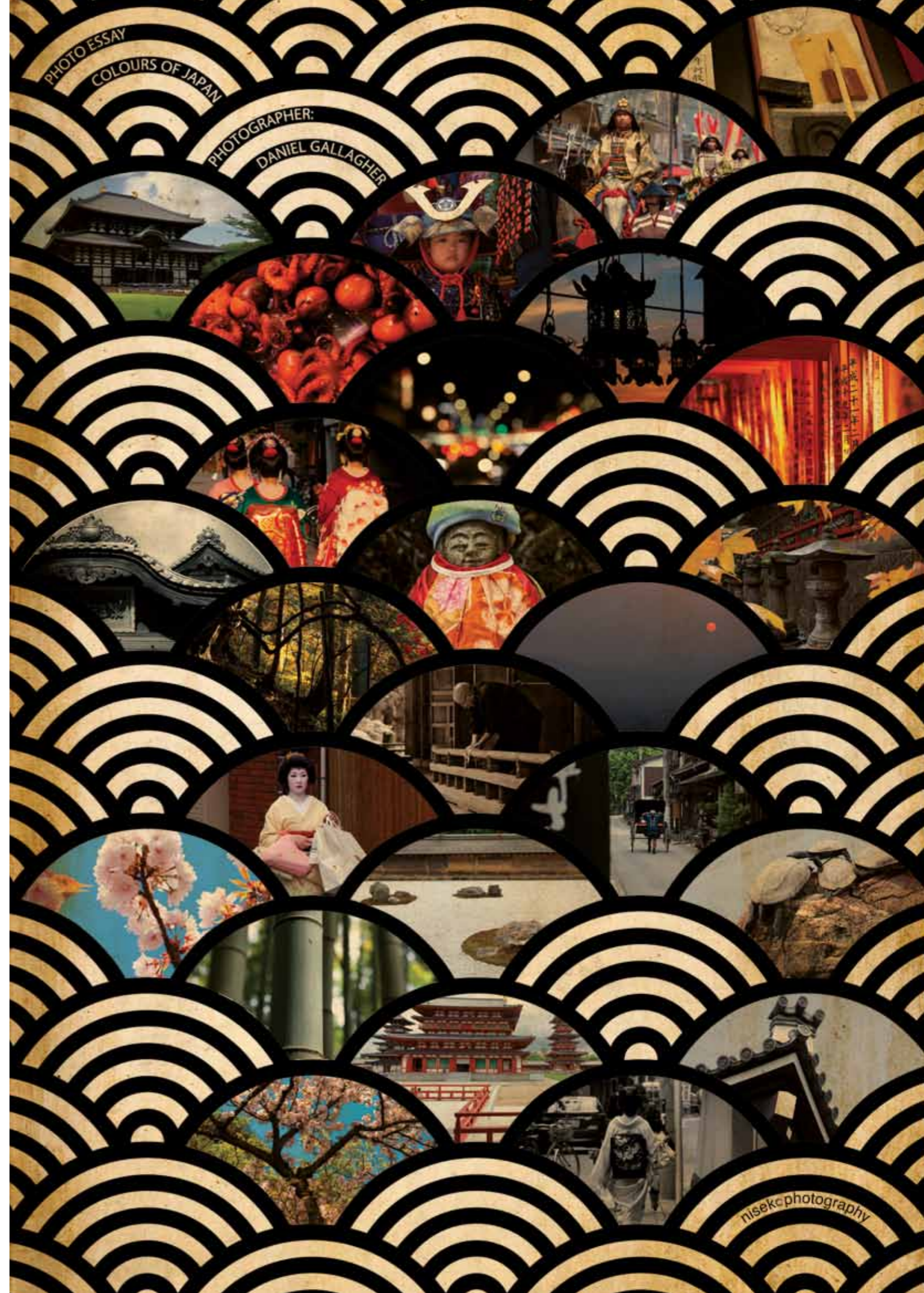
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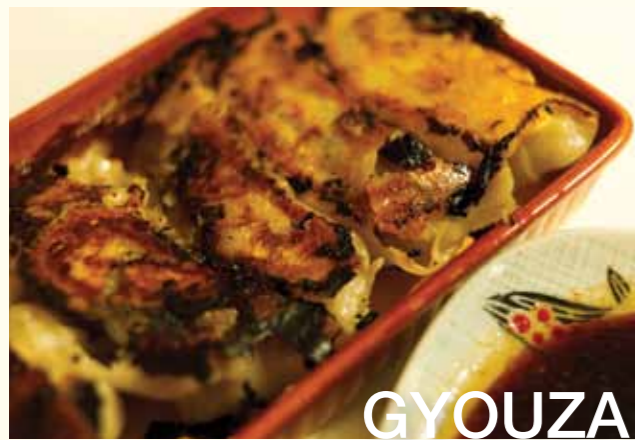
* EAT & DRINK

we 

Born and raised in Kutchan, ERI Ashizawa, from JAVA LOUNGE shares her favourite things to eat and drink in the area.

- Coffee and Chai latte at Java lounge - Hirafu (shameless plug)
- Bacon & Egg roll and Paninis at Java Lounge - Hirafu (another one!)
- Hokke-fish at Yukiguni - Kutchan
- Pizza at Kaku cafe - Kutchan
- Tofu salad at A-bu-cha 2 - Hirafu
- Dashi Maki Tamago - Japanese omelet at Namichanchi - Kutchan
- Blue Cheese & Walnut Rye Bread at Mugikaze - Kutchan
- Green Tea Roll Cake at Svetake Cake Shop - Kutchan

RECIPE // gyouza by kazuho 'kaz' furugori



GYOUZA

Ingredients - serves 4

- 24 gyoza shells
- Beef/pork mince 300g
- 1/2 a cabbage
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 thumb-size amount of Ginger
- 5 shiso leaves (Japanese basil)
- 1/2 tbs sesame oil
- Pinch of salt

Heat soy sauce and vinegar, then add sesame oil and chilli flakes.

Method

Finely chop the cabbage, garlic, ginger and shiso. Add a pinch of salt. Add mince and sesame oil and mix thoroughly. Put a spoonful of the mixture on to the centre of the gyoza shell. Dab water all round the edge and fold. Pinch and fold the open side. Press two sides together so it's completely sealed. On a non stick pan, put some oil and then the gyozas next to each other with minimum gap. Fry until the bottom is slightly brown. Pour hot water so it covers 3/4 of the gyozas and put a lid on. Keep on high heat until water evaporates, turn the heat down and dry the gyozas. When they are dry - serve them!

*Last issue's recipe for Okonomiyaki was supplied by Cocoro Okonomiyaki - Kutchan.

HANAJIZOH BAKERY

THIS delicious bakery in the outskirts of Izumikyō (map p.54, F5) is filled with the nostalgic scent of impressive baked goods, which is somewhat of a rarity here in Japan. Their baked white bread is authentic in creation and induces homesickness when you smell it. There is also immaculate looking, and delicious tasting sweets, which are the perfect accompaniment to a mid-morning breakfast, or a late-afternoon pampering. The husband/wife team are constantly baking, so their goods are always fresh. But be warned, get in early or risk missing out.



NISEKO CELLARS

FRESH for this season, Niseko Cellars has opened beneath J-Sekka to cater to those who prefer to sip on a big glass of red wine after a day's skiing within the comfort of their own accommodation. Inside the shop there is a selection of hand-chosen wines starting from ¥1000, all the way to Bordeaux from the 1980's. Mick Nippard, who runs Niseko Cellars, has a soft spot for hand-created boutique wines, and where possible he's selected these to stock the shelves of his shop. Whether you're into fine wines, or just searching for something to go with dinner, Mick can find you something to suit.



OTARU BEER DUNKEL BOCK

THE festive season definitely calls for a few extra drinks with family and friends. Some may enjoy egg nog and others fancy mulled wine. Otaru Beer's Dunkel Bock is a limited-edition Christmas beer and Niseko's answer to a yuletide tipple. It's refreshing but packs a surprise full-bodied 8% alcohol punch for extra cheer. Available at J-Sekka Café and Sekka Dining this Christmas (300mL ¥400, 500mL ¥680), Dunkel Bock is served in a special ceramic stein and is the perfect accompaniment to a hearty Christmas meal or an après-ski session.



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* RESTAURANT REVIEW // the barn



WORDS BY // lizzy hoo PHOTOGRAPHY BY // niseko photography

HEAD Chef of The Barn Kazuhiko Kojima, aka 'Kaz', realised his passion 9 years ago in France – a love and appreciation of simple and traditional French cooking.

AFTER working in Lyon and Nice, Kaz moved back to the Niseko area and has been here for the last six years; many locals witnessed Kaz's talents at his previous restaurant Le Cochon in Kutchan. In the summer, he joined forces with Brett and Takayo (of Wild Bill's fame) and the team at Odin to bring you outstanding classic French fare in the heart of Niseko.

The food is complemented by The Barn's striking building and is inspired by colonial Dutch architecture. From the street you can see right through to the bar on the balcony level and to the customers enjoying what Kaz brings to the table.

In true bistro style, The Barn's menu will change regularly (about once a month at this stage) and guests can choose from three appetisers, mains and desserts for a set

price of ¥4,800 (not including drinks). There is also a special vegetarian set menu featuring a Vegetable Pressee with Green Salad, Beans and Cépe Ravioli with Soy Milk and Vegetable Essence Soup, and Fruits Sorbet for dessert. The set menu for children includes a Chef's Flan with Green Salad, Cheese Hamburger Steak with Tomato Sauce and Vegetables and Ice cream.

On this occasion the appetisers are Mugibuta (wheat fed) Pork Terrine, Marinated Salmon and White Liver Paté, each paired with a Green Salad. The Pork Terrine is full of flavour and perfect for those who like a meaty taste. The Marinated Salmon is comparatively light and is cooked so that the skin is crispy and the flesh is only slightly cooked. Kaz's own White Liver Pate is a real treat and literally melts in

your mouth.

There was a choice of two mains at the time this review was undertaken. The Braised Beef Cheeks with Red Wine Sauce and Vegetables take four to five days to cook and are quickly gaining a reputation.

The Red Sea Bream with Poêlé Cream Sauce and Vegetables was equally as impressive and is served with mashed potatoes and a creamy rich sauce. Look out for the soon-to-be-released Duck Confit with Vegetables.

Even if you're full after two courses, you can't miss dessert. Banana Tarte with Vanilla Ice Cream, Warm Gateau au Chocolat with Framboise Ice Cream or the Crème Brulee with Camembert Cheese Ice Cream are all irresistible. Make sure your table orders at least one of each so you can share all of the desserts on the menu.

After dinner, you can head upstairs for a drink at the bar. The Barn is also open for après ski and will feature live music during the season with resident musician KENJAH.



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	30 minute	45 minute	60 minute	90 minute
Early bird (finish prior to 2pm)	¥3,500	¥5,000	¥6,000	¥8,000
Normal Price	¥5,000	¥7,000	¥8,000	¥11,000

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Ph. 0136 22 0399 - info@nisekophysio.com

*** TASTE THE REGION // kurabitoshu sake**



CONTACT // Tourism and Industry Division, Hokkaido, Niseko Town, Aza Fujimi47 Japan. T. 0136 44 2121. Ask for Paul.

THE plummeting price of rice during the 1990s forced Niseko rice farmers to produce a higher-quality product or risk losing their livelihood. Having only ever reached a B in terms of rice quality, this posed a tough situation for farmers.

The local Niseko government then assisted farmers in creating a higher standard of rice. What also resulted from the high-quality rice is an exceptional sake made from local ingredients, Kurabitoshu Sake. The sake maker, Tanaka Shuzo, is just as committed to the production of an excellent end product as the farmers are to growing the rice. Shuzo-san has a long history with the group and uses 100% Niseko-grown rice for his sake.

The growth of the rice is assisted

using natural alternatives such as the organic duck-farming method (pictured), which supports the area's 'Yes Clean' scheme. Ducklings are used to keep the rice paddies free from pests and weeds during the rice-growing season, and enhance the quality of the soils naturally. The ducks reach maturity just before the rice and are sold as meat locally over the winter period.

One sip of Kurabitoshu Sake is much more than having a warming drink on a chilly winter's night. The people behind each cup of sake believe in every step of its production, from growing the rice to when it's bottled. The farmers' wishes are simple: to keep producing high-quality rice, which then translates to exceptional sake. Available for purchase at Niseko Cellars in the J-Sekka complex.

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Niseko Branch

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* POWDER POSTER

LOCATION hirafu // RIDER kayle // PHOTOGRAPHY rony gardiner, niseko photography

* EYE SPY // art and culture in japan



PHOTOGRAPHY BY // shouya grigg

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY



HOKKAIDO is a photographer's playground. The mounds of white snow create interesting lines, the flat winter light is numbing and the geographic features of the area are as subtle as they are immense.

THE area is and can be interpreted in a number of ways. Local designer and creative director behind the Sekka Style label, Shouya Grigg, uses Hokkaido's natural elements to satisfy his love of photography, after working for many years as a high-fashion and commercial photographer in Sapporo. His photos of Hokkaido are instilled with his trademark 'Sekka Style', which is revealed in all his work: J-Sekka, Sekka Style, Sekka Maruyama Restaurant in Sapporo and the Sekka Lodge in Anupuri.

Raw, natural, visionary and eclectic are just some words that describe Shouya's approach to design – something that has organically evolved and he has inherently learned to trust over time. It's his fresh approach and bespoke style that make his home-design label Sekka Style distinctive.

This flair is best understood when surrounded by it. Walking through his secluded Hanazono

House, Shouya's inspirations are obvious – he has a penchant for antiques, old Japanese art, minimalist lines, uninterrupted perspectives and photography. Collecting nic nacs and his unique taste is something he attributes partly to his parents. They would take him along on reconnaissance missions to antique shops for their own home-renovation projects.

Finding interesting things, creating furniture, appropriating art to fit a certain room and working with a building's existing structural elements is a skill Shouya has refined. His ability to create houses that encompass a 'lifestyle' approach can be experienced at the Sekka Style showroom, in the J-Sekka complex. Here you'll find a sample of his Hokkaido-based photographs, Japanese antiques and the custom-designed furniture he uses to style the houses he designs.

@ www.sekkastyle.com

NATIONAL DESIGN



JAPAN is known world-wide for its unique take on modern design.

ONE company earning attention for its unique design is monacca. Residing in Umaji Village in the mountainous Kochi Prefecture, this small company produces unique wood-grain bags and furniture made out of the cedar that surrounds the area.

In order to obtain good cedar, the maintenance of the forest is essential: if the trees are too dense, their growth will be stunted and resources damaged. Monacca utilises the thinned wood that would usually be left in the forest.

Stylish, eco-sensitive and functional, monacca bags are different to many briefcases, handbags and clutches on the market. There is also a zabuton (Japanese cushion), chair, Japanese-style coffee table, light fixtures and a calculator available online or in selected Tokyo retailers. See website for details.

@ www.monacca.com



monacca cedar calculator



monacca cedar bag – kaku



Kutchan Town ¥12,175,000
1,610 sqm (487 tsubo) (¥25,000/tsubo)
Amazing Mt. Yotei & field views, quiet area



Niseko Town ¥18,800,000
20,585 sqm (6,227 tsubo) (¥3,000/tsubo)
360 panorama views, big plot, semi-wooded



Upper Hirafu Village ¥42,500,000
331 sqm (100 tsubo) (¥425,000/tsubo)
100 tsubo development plot in Upper Village



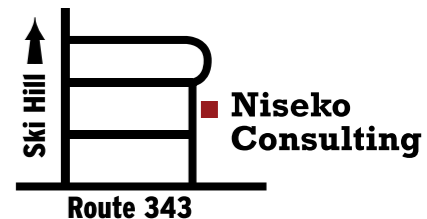
Niseko Village ¥8,900,000
103 sqm town house
3 bedroom, garage, semi-furnished, 9% ret.

Hirafu Outskirts ¥27,000,000
118 sqm (land 974 sqm, 295 tsubo)
2 bed/2 bath, 2 km to Hirafu. Completed '09

Hirafu Village ¥36,000,000
67 sqm (land 205 sqm, 62 tsubo)
2 bed/1 bath, luxury fittings, shuttle bus



Real estate license: Shiribeshi (1) 346
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* SNOW CAVES// zekkei

advertising promotion



ZEKKEI

ZEKKEI is undoubtedly one of the most impressive & luxurious chalets in Niseko, set over 3 floors & approximately 400sqm.

FROM early morning the sun streams into the spacious interior, flooding this fabulous chalet with warmth and light. Vast picture windows reveal unobstructed views of Mt. Yotei and the rice terraces in the valley below.

The open living/dining area is characterized by the traditional use of Canadian wooden beams blended with modern and sleek interior furnishings with heated timber flooring.

The oversized handmade Siberian elm-wood dining table, white-marble fire place and huge lounges are perfect for entertaining.

Masterfully produced by West Canada Homes, with unmatched management service provided by The Niseko Company, Zekkei is truly a special property.



- » 5 en-suited bedrooms and 1 en-suited kids' room with double bunks bed
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- » Stunning views



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photo // niseko photography // goshiki onsen



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photo // niseko photography // hirafu



* 1000 WORDS

If a picture tells 1000 words, then here's 8000 words to help you get a better understanding of this awesome place we call home.

photo // niseko photography // hirafu

WHAT'S ON YOUR PLAYLIST?

DEREK Begley, aka Digler, is a part-time tough guy, personal trainer, fighter and all-round good dude. His playlist is self described as "Three categories – hip hop, stuff from old-skool snowboard videos that I pretend to be in and chicks yelling at me." If you want to win a ski shot from YETI BAR,

send your playlist to
ross@powderlife.com

- 1// **Old Dirty Bastard** // Shimmy Shimmy Ya
- 2// **Le Tigre** // Deceptacon
- 3// **Donovan** // Season of the Witch
- 4// **Pennywise** // Society
- 5// **Outkast** // So Fresh and So Clean
- 6// **Verve/Jay Z** // Dirt of Your Shoulders
- 7// **CSS/Diplo remix** // Let's Make Love
- 8// **Devo** // Mongoloid
- 9// **Blondie** // Dreaming
- 10// **The Gossip** // Standing in the Way of Control



FIRST IMPRESSION



Name: Ian Weavers. **Nationality:** Welsh.

Ski or snowboard? Looks like I'll start out with snowboarding and maybe skiing at some point.

Why Niseko? I wanted the best snow in the world and I wanted the biggest challenge.

First thoughts? I love this place and the people. Yotei made me just stop in my tracks.

Something that made you look/think twice? The amazing car park in Sapporo that parked our car for us with a special lift.

Going anywhere else in Japan? I'll have to see how much spare time I have after the season.



photo // glen claydon // hirafu



photo // niseko photography // hirafu



photo // niseko photography // hirafu



BUYING OFF THE PLAN

Buying off-the-plan requires you to enter into a contract before seeing the finished product. It is an attractive option for those wanting to enter Niseko's property market, but just what are the benefits?

BUYING off the plan can be considered risky for such a high-involvement purchase, but it's also a buying strategy that can reap financial reward. *Powderlife* caught up with a few local agents and asked them to explain the benefits of off-the-plan purchases.

Ruskin McLennan of Niseko Property says, "Buying off the plan is simple: you are the first owner of the property; you may be able to influence the design and make changes with the architect and developer. And you only need to pay a deposit to get yourself into the market, the balance is not due until completion, the risk is mostly with the developer."

In Niseko, there are many off-the-plan opportunities because of the area's early development stage, in comparison to other international ski resorts. The market in the Niseko area is entering a new growth phase and is likely to see a rise in off-the-plan purchases due to the new major developments in the area recently coming onto the market.

This includes: Sesaragi Residences – a selection of 2 x 4 bedroom houses close to the village and with views of Mount Yotei; The Rocks Edge and The Rocks Strata; Shiki Niseko in the middle village; Akazora, which consists of 26 condominiums; Niseko Riverside – 8 boutique apartments coming onto the market this winter; The Escarpment in the lower village; and the anticipated Capella in Annupuri. All of these properties offer something different for the buyer. This variety of developments will allow investors

to get an off-the-plan opportunity that suits them.

Julian Bailey from Hokkaido Tracks Resort Development has a lot of experience with off-the-plan and explains that, "Properties can be designed and developed to innovate and improve on those previously developed, delivering better properties at better value." Craig Meikle of Meikle & Associates takes into account the inevitable weakening of the yen, "Works are due for completion in two years time. This gives potential investors the opportunity to lock in an apartment with minimal deposit and wait for the yen to weaken over the next two years, which surely it will."

As with any property purchase there are things to be mindful of when purchasing, particularly when you haven't seen the finished product. Here are some things to consider:

- » FIRSTLY you have to believe that what you see on the plan is what you're going to get. How big are the rooms going to be? What level of quality are the furnishings and fixtures? Buy from a reputable developer that has other finished work to show you.
- » ESTABLISH whether the asking price is fair and enquire about the price of property in the area – is it rising? Question rental guarantees. With all of the options available in Niseko, shop around and make a purchase that suits you.



AGENT PROFILE

Name Brian Lysne **Agency** Niseko Real Estate **How is business in Niseko?** This past July and August were our best on record. **What's your forecast for 2011?** Very busy! Exciting projects will be coming on the market shortly, offering levels of design, quality and amenities not yet seen in this area. **What projects in Niseko are you excited about?**

The Rocks is a project which is currently creating quite a buzz. Comprised of two sister developments, The Rocks Edge and The Rocks Strata. **From what countries are interested buyers coming from?**

The single biggest market remains Hong Kong. The Australian market is still strong, and so are the Singaporean and Malaysian markets. Interest from mainland China is also growing. **What type of real-estate investment would you recommend to buy in Niseko?**

Ski-in/ski-out properties are certainly a good choice. Also, lifestyle investment opportunities with spacious land estates and Mt Yotei vistas. **What are your words of wisdom for potential buyers?**

Do your homework and weigh up your options, location is really important and find something that differentiates your property from the pack. **What do you think will make more people come to Niseko?**

The Hirafu-Zaka masterplan is certainly a large step in the right direction. A new Hirafu gondola would also be nice!

(Image: The Rocks Edge Penthouse, Hirafu, 291.82 sqm interior space ¥262,650,000)



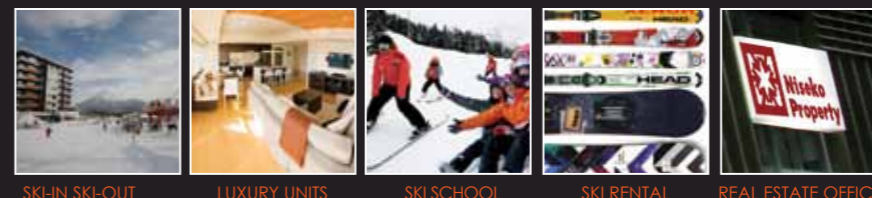
Niseko Property

193-7 Aza Yamada, Kutchan-cho, Hokkaido Japan 044-0081



Alpen Ridge 104
 ¥35,000,000 1 bed 1 bath 1 car

Ski in, ski out luxury apartment with village views and fantastic occupancies. This is the only studio apartment in the building and rents very well.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 45m²



Here's your chance to buy into Ski-in ski-out unbeatable accommodation in Niseko

Alpen Ridge

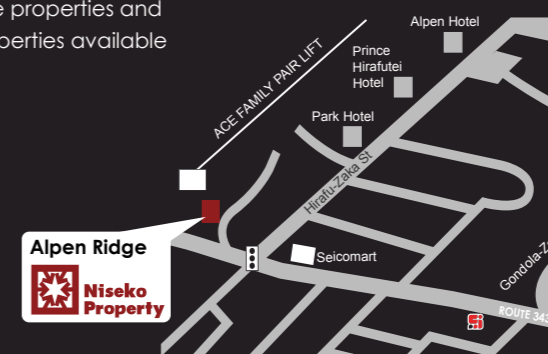
The very best Western style, luxury, ski-in, ski-out accommodation in Hirafu Village. The apartments are within 2 minutes of the heart of the village, close to the supermarket, bars, restaurants and onsens that make any visit to Niseko unique in the skiing world.

Luxury in design, developed with care free living in mind and thoughtfully appointed with all modern appliances. For extra convenience, Alpen Ridge incorporates a ski school, ski rental service, personal ski lockers, staff reception desk, Niseko Property real estate office, attached cafe and an on site management team.

A selection of studio, 1, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments available for sale.

For more information on these properties and a huge selection of other properties available throughout the Niseko region Call into our office in the Alpen Ridge Building

SALES ENQUIRIES
 Ruskin McLennan:
 PH 080 60987882
 Peter Murphy:
 PH 080 60818989



Alpen Ridge 202
 ¥45,000,000 1 bed 1 bath 1 car

Ski-in ski-out, luxury slope side, one bedroom apartment with spectacular views looking directly down on the Ace Family chairlift.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 59m²

Alpen Ridge 504
 ¥79,000,000 3 bed 2 bath 1 car

Ski-in ski-out, luxury, three bedroom apartment. The views from apartment 504 capture both the ski resort and Mt Yotei in all its glory.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 120m²

Alpen Ridge 403
 ¥85,000,000 3 bed 2 bath 1 car

Ski-in ski-out, luxury, three bedroom apartment. Huge apartment with uninterrupted views of Mt Yotei from 2 balconies and the finest finishes.
LOCATION: Upper Hirafu Village
FLOOR AREA: 122m²

* REAL ESTATE NEWS

by lizzy hoo



HIRAFU ZAKA PARK

NEW developer in Hirafu, Summit Properties Limited, has launched a new branded operation – The Rocks Niseko Resort and will provide the financing for Hirafu Park.

“THE Rocks Niseko Resort is the first venture falling under this brand name. It consists of a large hotel (100 luxury ski-in ski-out residences) where the Scot Hotel is, at the top of the village. This will be demolished and construction will take place there starting April next year. The second one is in the middle village: four luxury residences – two town houses and two pent-houses.” Says Riccardo Tossani, the architect behind the venture.

Riccardo has been instrumental in assisting Hong Kong-based Summit Properties Limited in getting a permit for the first time in Japan for a condominium hotel in a national-park zone. The ‘condo hotel’ model is a differ-

ent model to the conventional hotel model, where the risk is spread out and the revenue model is changed so that it's easier to find investment and make money. The model also lends itself to high-quality public amenities without putting a big burden on the operations.

To complement this venture and the Hirafu Zaka masterplan, Summit Properties Limited are providing financial backing for Hirafu Zaka Park, on the intersection of the main street and Route 343. It's in the best interest of Summit Properties Limited, the government and the community to build this park. Director of the company Lucas Fuller, along with Riccardo

Tossani, officially met the Kutchan mayor last summer to announce his intentions on behalf of his company to finance the design of Hirafu Park.

“Summit Properties wants to balance out the development of the upper village – a place where they have a very strong interest. They also want to see that the bottom end of Hirafu Zaka is not neglected. And so it's natural for them to take advantage

of an offer that I made, which is if they [Summit Properties] pay for it [the Hirafu Zaka park], I will design the Hirafu Zaka Park plan, and begin the process of getting government money for its construction,” says Riccardo.

This project may trigger other opportunities for other developers to work in a synchronic way with the Hirafu Zaka masterplan.

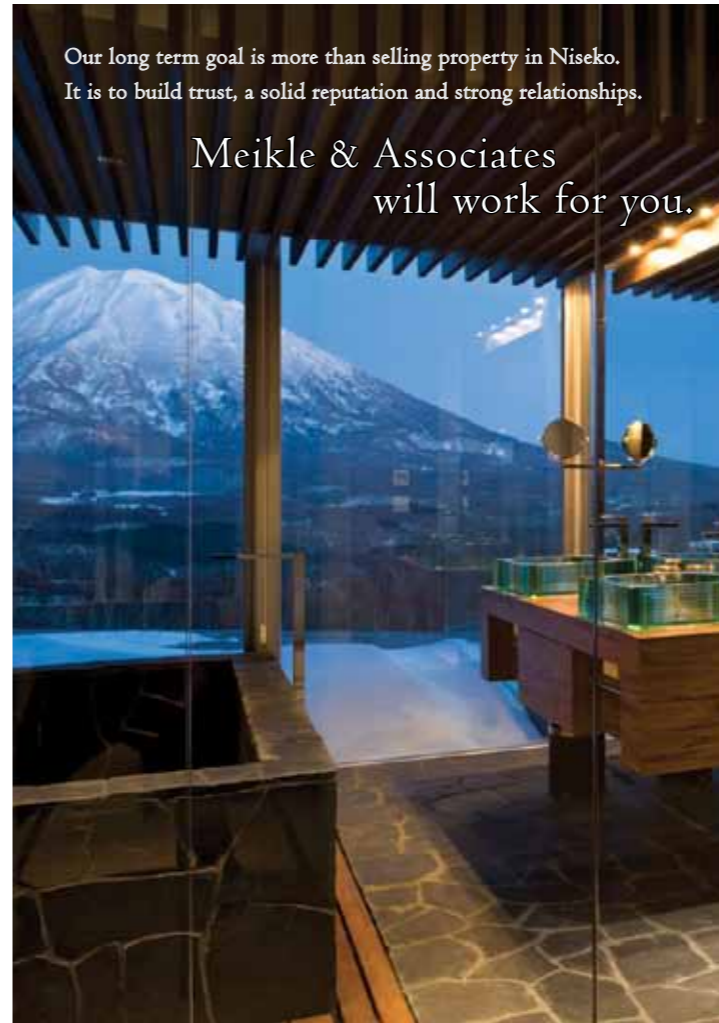
REAL-ESTATE OFFICE NEW LOCATIONS

IN response to an increase in listings, several real-estate offices in the area have relocated or added new sales stations for the winter period. Hokkaido Tracks Development (HTD) and LJ Hooker have pop-up offices to the right of Seicomart. LJ Hooker will concentrate on launching two of its properties Shiki Niseko and Akazora and HTD will present their exciting new project The Vale Furano. Meikle and Associates have an additional

sales office across the road in the plush confines of The Vale Niseko where you can view a new model of Capella. Niseko Property is now in Alpen Ridge just next to the Family run. Niseko Real Estate and Meikle & Associates have opened up a show-suite next to the Scot Hotel for the highly anticipated The Rocks Niseko Resort. And Tracks Real Estate also has a new sales station in Australia House, opposite Seicomart.

Our long term goal is more than selling property in Niseko. It is to build trust, a solid reputation and strong relationships.

Meikle & Associates
will work for you.



MEIKLE & ASSOCIATES



R E A L E S T A T E

Please come and visit us in our new showroom in The Vale this winter.

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EZO VIEWS

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Completion of first of two buildings 'Blackcomb' autumn 2010:
Luxury 5 bedroom • 6 bathroom private residence with elevator

WWW.EZOVIEWS.COM



* BACK COUNTRY



Name Adam Streeet **Company** Shinsetsu Mountain Guides **Ski or board** Telemark, 30 years **What's your best backcountry experience?** Any run when the client tells me that it was the best run of their life **Best tip for backcountry skiers/boarders visiting Niseko?** Hire a guide, you'll get more from your time, and they'll get you straight into the deep filth.

FREE BACKCOUNTRY INFORMATION SEMINAR //

Ever hiked the peak? Been through a gate in Niseko? Considered the consequences? Know what you're getting into with Black Diamond Tours free information seminar.

Location // Above Proski Demo shop, opposite The Vale Niseko

Time // 6-7pm every Tuesday during winter

YOU have mastered the groomers, been on ski holidays several times all over the world, and you want to escape the crowds – chances are you're ready to go backcountry. The satisfaction of hiking peaks and then making your way down in untracked, waste-deep snow is exhilarating.

In Japan, Niseko is renowned for its liberal stance toward backcountry skiing and snowboarding. With that freedom comes the responsibility to respect the mountain. Niseko's powder may look soft and friendly, but don't let its light and fluffy appearance fool you.

Powderlife has collected some tips from local experts to keep you safe on the mountain.

- 1. Obey the Niseko Rules: Listed on the course map (p.52)**
- Check weather and avalanche reports – www.niseko.nadare.info
- 3. Respect Niseko's ski patrollers**
- Use essential equipment: A beacon, probe and shovel are

the bare essentials. Make sure you know how to use them.

5. Let someone know when you're planning to be back.

6. If the gates are closed don't risk entering them.

7. No-go zones include Yu no Sawa (between Annapuri and Niseko Village area), and Haru no Taki (cliff area west of Hirafu).

8. Ducking ropes may result in you losing your lift pass.

9. Hire a guide if you're not sure about going off-piste.

10. Explore the backcountry with experienced riders and skiers.

AVALANCHE INFO //

Shinya-san's daily avalanche report: www.niseko.nadare.info

Powderlife's Backcountry Guide is online – www.powderlife.com

- // 'Backcountry basics'
- // 'Inside a 2-day avalanche course'
- // 'Lost in the backcountry'
- // 'How to build a snowcave'

HEALTH – DIZZINESS BALANCE AND YOUR VESTIBULAR SYSTEM // by wennie tan

THE basic function of walking doesn't usually involve much thought of how it is that we are able to remain balanced.

To see what it feels like to have your balance system fail, find a children's playground with the piece of equipment in which you sit and spin around as fast as you can turn the steering wheel. Spin yourself around until you feel the need to throw up, then jump out and try to walk in a straight line with your eyes closed. This is how it could feel for someone with a vestibular dysfunction.

The vestibular system provides our sense of balance and spatial orientation. It consists of the inner ear and its connection to our brain, eyes and muscles. In some ways it acts like a spirit level in our head. It allows our bodies to remain upright as we're snowboarding or skiing and prevents our eyes from bobbing up and down

at the same time as our head when we hit some moguls.

Some conditions that can affect the vestibular system include:

Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV): Characterized by vertigo (the room-spinning feeling), especially when lying down or bending over.

This occurs when crystals in the inner ear are dislodged (eg. from hitting one's head) and end up floating around in the wrong spot. This can be easily corrected with a manual technique that redirects the crystals back to the correct location, resulting in an instant and dramatic improvement, which amazes me every time I perform it.

Infection: When the inner ear is infected, you should feel something like the way you felt after that exercise at the playground. Early steroids can help minimise permanent damage.

Hypofunction: This occurs when the receptors in the 'spirit level' are

damaged. This could be the result of infection or sometimes antibiotics (be wary of Gentamicin). Specific vestibular exercises can help recovery but improvement tends to be slower and more limited.

Meniere's (a pressure problem in the inner ear), some migraines, tumours, strokes and brain injuries can also affect the vestibular system.

- **If you hit your head and there is any suspicion of brain injury (dizziness, headache, neurological changes) go to hospital and get some imaging to rule out bleeding/ swelling/ bruising on the brain or a fractured skull. Don't go to bed!**
- **If you suffer from dizziness or poor balance it could be worth consulting a specially trained physiotherapist, neurologist and maybe audiologist.**
- **Training your balance is beneficial. A simple exercise at home is to stand on one leg with your eyes closed for 30 seconds. If this is too easy try standing on a cushion.**

So the next time you are walking down an icy road in the dark and somehow manage not to slip, spare some thought for your vestibular system.



RESORT GUIDE

POWDERLIFE is your Niseko Travel Guide – in print and online. With www.powderlife.com and Powderlife Niseko magazine, you'll discover the essential information for the perfect holiday.

During your stay, experience Niseko's restaurants, bars and cafes, where you can feast on anything – from the most authentic sushi to beautiful local sake. Make the most of your skiing and boarding with the specialist ski and snowboard stores and mountain guides around town.

Inside you'll also find *Powderlife's* onsen guide, short history of the area and village maps.

For everything else visit www.powderlife.com/niseko-resort-guide.



TOURIST INFO

Kutchan Information Centre

Plenty of brochures and English-speaking staff.

Location: Main Street, Kutchan (map p.53, A4)

T: (0136) 22 1121.

The Niseko Grand Hirafu Welcome Centre

Wide range of brochures from the area and transport information.

Location: Top of the main street (Hirafu Zaka) in Hirafu (map p.54, E1)

T: (0136) 22 0109.

GETTING HERE & THERE

New Chitose Airport.

For departure and arrival times.

T: (0123) 23 0111

W: www.new-chitose-airport.jp/language/english

Getting from New Chitose to Niseko

Bus: This is a cheap and efficient option.

Buses leave every 30 minutes from the airport to Niseko and take about three hours (includes rest stop and drop off at Rusutsu). Companies providing this service: Whiteliner Buses, Chuo Bus, Donan Bus and Hokkaido Resort Liner. Visit the Welcome Centre for bus bookings back to Chitose. ¥2,300 approx. (one way) or ¥3850 approx. (roundtrip).

Door-to-Door Transfer Skybus offers a door-to-door transfer service to and from the airport to Niseko, or Sapporo. See p.18 for details.

T: 011 788 4994

W: www.skybus.co.jp

Train This is the most scenic route to Niseko. There is no direct train from Chitose to Kutchan Station (closest major station to Hirafu), and all

trains run through Sapporo and Otaru. You will be required to change platforms. ¥2600 approx.

T: (0123) 45 7011 – Airport Station

T: (0136) 22 1310 – Kutchan station

W: www.japanrail.com

CAR RENTAL

Niseko Auto Rentals

Specialising in large 4wd 7-8 passenger vehicles: Delica Space Gear and Toyota Hiace.

T: (0136) 44 1144

W: www.bdlodge.com

Toyota Rent-a-Car ShinSapporo

One-way hire from Chitose to Hirafu is about ¥7000 for six people/24 hours. Pick up at Chitose airport, Sapporo or Kutchan

T: (0118) 15 0100 (English ok!)

The Powderlife website has some great tips on how to drive on snow as well as good contacts if you have an accident.

www.powderlife.com/niseko-travel-guide

TRANSPORT AROUND NISEKO

Taxis: Drivers probably won't speak English so you will need a business/place name and map for where you are going.

T: (0136) 22 1212 Kutchan Hire // (0136) 22 1171 Misora Hire // (0136) 44 2635 Niseko Hire.

Bus

Niseko United Shuttle: Connects Hirafu, Niseko Village and Annapuri resorts. Pickup/drop-off points in Hirafu include Hirafu Gondola and the bus stop near Hirafu intersection.

¥: Free if you have an all-mountain pass // 1 point if you have a 12-point mountain pass //

¥500 Adult and ¥300 for child.

Grand Hirafu Village shuttle bus:

Shuttle buses run throughout Hirafu every 15 minutes, all day, every day, until the end of night-skiing.

¥: Free

Hanazono Shuttle Bus: Travels throughout Hirafu Village and out to Hanazono from 7.50am to 6pm. Look out for the blue buses.

¥: Free

Kutchan Night Go Bus: Runs to and from Hirafu to Kutchan Station every night.

¥: ¥200 for 1 week pass/¥500 for a season pass

MONEY

ATM Locations

Hokkaido Tracks Holiday's Office, Hirafu

Map: p.54, E2

Accepts: All major cards

Kutchan Main Post Office

Map: p.53, E3

Accepts: All major cards

7 Eleven

Map: p.53, C1

Accepts: Visa Plus, JCB, AMEX, Dinners Club, Discover, China Union Pay

Credit Cards Lift tickets, ski hire and ski lessons can all be paid for by credit. Most large restaurants offer credit card facilities too, however some small businesses are cash only. Check with your retailer before purchasing.

Currency Exchange Kutchan Post Office and Hokuyo Bank (Map p.53, B3)

SHOPPING

For everything from toothpaste to alcohol and late-night snacks try:

Seicomart – Hirafu

Location: At the main intersection in Hirafu

Lawson – Hirafu (24 hours)

Location: 5 minutes from Seicomart in the direction of Kutchan.

Piz Gloria and the **Alpen Hotel** offer a smaller range of snacks and drinks, and **Sekka Deli** provides gourmet items from Hokkaido.

Kutchan Shopping

For a big shopping trip, it's worth venturing into Kutchan Town. Here is a list of the major stores stocking the basics, but if you explore a little further you'll find small local fruit and vegetable retailers and great souvenir shops.

Try **Best Denki** for all your electrical and technical needs.

Location: p.53, B4

Rummage through **M-Pocket** for imported groceries and alcohol.

Location: p.53, B3

Visit **Homac**, which shelves basically every household product. Afterwards head next door to major supermarket **MaxValu** for all your food supplies as well as **Tsuruha Drug** (red signage) if you need a pharmacy.

Location: Route 5 and Route 343. (p.53, G3)

Take a trip to the **¥100 store** if you're on a budget.

Location: p.53, B4

SHOPPING

Internet

J-Sekka Deli and Downtown Café have free Internet terminals.

Mobile Phones

Only 3G phones will work in Japan. Some accommodation providers offer mobile phone hire.

Domestic Calls

Green and grey public phones take coins or pre-paid telephone cards. Local calls don't require the '0136', unless made from a public telephone.

International Calls

Dial (010) and then the code of the country you wish to call. If the number starts with 0 – drop the

0 and dial everything else.

Post Offices

Look for the red '〒' symbol. There are two post offices in Kutchan. In Hirafu, post-office boxes and stamps are located at Piz Gloria and Seicomart.

ELECTRICITY

Standard voltage is 100v AC. You can use most electronic items without a problem, but some high watt devices such as hairdryers may not run on full power. Plugs are the international standard (flat, two-blade type).

STAY SAFE AROUND TOWN

No skiing/boarding on roads or footpaths

While it may seem much quicker and easier than walking, skiing and snowboarding home from the hill is dangerous and is frowned upon by locals.

One third of all injuries in Hirafu are caused by people falling on the street. Wear shoes with a good grip or buy and attach rubber sole cleats with metal studs.

Be careful when walking or parking your car under roofs

Heavy snow slides from rooftops in Niseko. The snow slides can seriously damage your cars too.

Drinking Dangers

Make sure you leave the bar with someone else. Also make sure you rug up and stay warm – people have been known to fall asleep in the snow on the way home. If you do notice someone who is intoxicated, report them to the police or the safety hut located outside Seicomart.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Kutchan Kousei Hopsital

For anything you think is broken. X-ray, MRI and medical dispensary. No appointment necessary.

Location: p.53, A3

T: 0136 22 1141

Niseko Physio

The only acute sports injury specialist in the village.

Location: p.54, B2

T: 0136 22 0399

LOCAL LINGO

GREETINGS

Good morning	Ohaiyogozaimasu
Hello	Konichiwa
Good evening	Kon ban wa
Goodnight	Oyasuminasai
Goodbye	Sayonara
See you later	Mata ne
What's your name?	Onamae wa nan desu ka?
My name is ...	Watashi no Namae wa (insert name) desu
(nice to meet you)	Dozo yoroshiku
How are you?	Genki desu ka?
I'm fine	Genki desu
How old are you?	O toshi wa Ikutsu desu ka?

BASIC QUESTIONS

Where is ...?	... wa doko desu ka?
toilet	toire
Are you okay?	Daijoubu desu ka?

RESTAURANT TIPS

How many people?	Nan mei sama desu ka?
two people (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)	'ni' mai desu (san, yon, go, roku, shichi, hachi)
What would you like to drink?	Onomimono wa okimari desu ka?
One beer please	biiru 'hitotsu' kudasai
Food counters	
one	hitotsu
two	futatsu
three	mitsu
four	yotsu
Before you eat say	Itadakimasu
After you eat say	Gochisosamadeshta
Cheers	Kanpai
Delicious	Oiishi

OUT AND ABOUT

Great snow	Sugoi yuki
Excuse me	Sumimasen
I don't understand	Nihonga ga
Japanese	wakarimasen
Do you speak English?	Ego ga hanasemasu ka?
Cute	Kawaii
Japan's great!	Nihon wa sugoi

ONSEN GUIDE

GOING to the onsen for the first time can be a little daunting. *Powderlife's* guide and onsen etiquette tips will help you fall in love with this quintessential Japanese experience.

Yukoro Onsen

T: 0136 23 3434 (Hirafu map p.54 B4)

Hotel Niseko Alpen

T: 0136 22 1105 (Hirafu map p.54 E1)

Hot Spring Poporo

T: 0136 23 3291 (Hirafu map p.54 F1)

Yumoto Niseko Prince Hotel Hirafutei

T: 0136-23-2239 (Hirafu map p.54 D1)

Hilton Niseko Village

T: 0136 44 1111 (Higashiyama map p.53 G7)

Green Leaf Hotel Niseko Village

T: 0136 44 3311 (Higashiyama map p.53 G7)

Niseko Grand Hotel

T: 0136 58 2121 (Annupuri map p.53 A8)

ONSEN ETIQUETTE

What to bring?

Bath towel, modesty towel and toiletries. Most onsens provide body soap and shampoo, and sell modesty towels for about ¥200.

How much?

Most onsens range between ¥600 to ¥1000.

What to do?

1. Enter the changing room through the appropriate door: 女 for women, 男 for men.
2. Remove your clothes and put them in the basket or locker provided.
3. Have a shower before entering the onsen. Rinse yourself thoroughly and then your shower cubicle before going into the onsen.
4. Use the modesty towel when walking into the onsen then gracefully slide into the water – never jump.
5. Don't let your towel enter the onsen water – just rest it on your head or on a rock on the side of the onsen.
6. Soak, contemplate and relieve your sore muscles.
7. Dry yourself off before going back into the change room, as best you can.

Many onsen have rooms where you can relax, drink a cold beer or tea, or even sit in a massage chair.

LOCAL HISTORY

WHAT does Niseko mean?

'Niseko' was the name originally given to the area by the Ainu, Hokkaido's indigenous people, and means 'a cliff jutting over a riverbank deep in the mountains'. Meanwhile, Nupuri is a word commonly heard around these parts, namely because it's the Ainu word for 'mountain'. Put it all together and Mt Niseko Annupuri (the mountain that is home to the Niseko United resorts) means 'a mountain which has sheer cliffs and a river below'. Other nearby mountains which have carried their Ainu names until today include Chisenupuri and Iwaonupuri.

SKI RESORT HISTORY

1911	Theodore von Lerch ascends Mount Yotei
1949	Mount Yotei is designated a National Park
1956	Rope tow installed at Asahigaoka ski area
1961	First ski lift in Grand Hirafu ski area completed
1962	40th All Japan Ski Championships (Alpine)
1963	Niseko mountain range is designated a Quasi-National Park
1966	Taiheiyo Club Niseko Moiva International ski area opens
1970	Kutchan hosts the 25th National Ski Competition
1972	Niseko Annupuri ski area opens
1982	Niseko Higashiyama ski area (currently Niseko Village) opens
1993	Free Passport lift pass system valid at 4 ski resorts introduced
2002	Niseko starts to receive a large number of Australian tourists

Information courtesy of the Niseko Promotion Board



Jagata-kun: Little fat skiing potato boy



Jagako: Jagata-kun's snowboarding girlfriend

GOMI GUIDE

IF in doubt, don't just throw it out!

What is burnable rubbish? (燃えるゴミ moeru-gomi)

Contrary to what most of us are brought up to believe, burnable rubbish includes plastics, as well as paper and food scraps.

PET bottles and cans (ペット缶)

Plastic drink bottles (with lid/label removed) and aluminium/steel drink cans

Compost (生ゴミ nama-gomi)

When available, compost bins are for food scraps. Though be careful, tea bags are not considered compost.

Non-burnable rubbish (燃えないゴミ moenai-gomi)

Non-burnable rubbish is for rubbish that doesn't fit the other categories, including items such as broken glass, ceramics and metals.

What can you do to help keep Niseko beautiful?

Take a second to be sure you're throwing your garbage in the correct bin. For more information visit www.town.kutchan.hokkaido.jp

C2 A-Bu-Cha 2
p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Try our popular Japanese dishes or hot-pots. Choice of 400 drinks! Japanese seating available. Families welcome. Lunch and Cafe: various lunch dishes, coffee, homemade dessert.



Lunch 11am – 4pm
Dinner 6pm 2am
(LO 3pm/11.30pm)
☎ 0136 22 5620

www.abucha.net

A wide variety of meals and drinks – top marks

E7 Black Diamond Restaurant
p53 HIGASHIYAMA

Offering a wide variety of food and drink from around the world. Japanese daily specials, Western, Mexican and Italian dishes! Billiards, darts, happy hour and drink specials daily! Free pickup from The Hilton and The Green Leaf for groups of 6 or more.



4pm–midnight
(LO 11pm food // 11.30pm drink)
☎ 0136 44 1144

www.bdlodge.com

Free pick-up from The Hilton and The Green Leaf for 6 or more

A1 Country Grill
p54 COUNTRY RESORT

Unique flavours not found anywhere else in the area, with all local products by La Andy. From Hokkaido-grown beef, country roast chicken, and our specialty Hokkaido Venison, try the new Country Grill, just outside busy Hirafu in the quiet community of Country Resort.



Breakfast 7.30–10.30am
Dinner 17.00 to late

www.nisekocountryresort.com

Grilled favourites, relaxed dining, casual atmosphere

☎ 0136 55 5123

A4 Ebisutei
p54 LOWER HIRAFU

Finished skiing? Drop in for great food and a good time! Laugh and drink at this lively izakaya inn. Enjoy our assorted Japanese hotchpotch.



Open daily
5pm – midnight

www.ebcbar.com

Have fun with our genki and laughing oden bar staff

☎ 0136 22 6544

D2 Bang Bang
p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Ramen lunch at Bang 2 starting this season! We take great pride in our fresh seafood and look forward to offering you mouthwatering dishes from our wide-ranging menus.



Lunch 11am – 4pm
Dinner 5.30pm – 11.30 pm
Occasionally closed
☎ 0136 22 4292

www.niseko.or.jp/bangbang

We take great pride in our fresh seafood

C3 Cocoro Okonomiyaki
p53 KUTCHAN

Real Osaka-style okonomiyaki and yakisoba cooked by you on your teppan (hot plate). Try out takoyaki (octopus) and chicken balls. Japanese sweets also available.



11am – 9pm
☎ 0136 22 1528 (Jap)
☎ 0136 23 0008 (Eng)

Great Food, Great Value!

B3 Downtown Café
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Hugely popular with locals, this top-rated cafe-restaurant offers all-day breakfast, bagels, daily blackboard specials and great coffee. Eat in or take out. Free high-speed internet.



Open 7 days
8am to 10.30pm
Breakfast, lunch and dinner
☎ 0136 23 3354

Hirafu's finest cafe free internet terminal + Wi-Fi

C4 Half Note
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Enjoy live weekend jazz nights as well as Dancing and other live music on weekdays. With, jazz, billiards and table tennis, there's always something going on at Half Note. Check out Half Note's regular jazz events at www.nisekohalfnote.com.



6pm–midnight
Open daily

www.nisekohalfnote.com

Hirafu's only jazz bar!

☎ 0136 23 2727

F5 Hana Jizoh
p54 IZUMIKYO 2

Amazing sweet and savoury breads and pastries from a friendly local family baker. You must try this! Get the free Hirafu Village shuttle to bus stop 27, near Unitas Log Village. Eat in or takeaway.



8.00am – 4.30pm
Closed Wednesdays

☎ 0136 23 0331

Creative and delicious breads from a local baker

D4 Java Lounge
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

Come and relax on the Java Lounge sofas, try our

- Italian coffee • Assorted Panini
- Home baked muffins and cakes • Hot soups
- Iced-cold beer • Daily special lunches
- Quiches or all day breakfast



Daily
7am to 8pm

Early morning breakfast, lunch and après drinks

E2 Kamimura
p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Trained by one of the world's top chefs, Tetsuya Wakuda, chef Kamimura uses the abundance of Hokkaido produce to create a memorable degustation dining experience.



Dinner 6pm – 11pm
Occasionally closed

☎ 0136 21 2288

www.kamimura-niseko.com

Blessed by land, sea and a creative chef

B3 Maki Lounge
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

With an open fire and sweeping views of the Hirafu ski hill, unwind on our leather lounges. Apres drinks include an array of fine Japanese whiskey, sake, sho-chu and plum wine as well as classic and house-blend cocktails, spirits and glass wine.



Coffee, snacks and games from 10am // bar 2pm–late 7 days
☎ 0136 21 6133

www.j-sekka.com

Japanese whiskey, sake and shochu by the fire

B3 J-Sekka Café and Delicatessen
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

For a hearty breakfast to get you ready for the slopes, or a lazy afternoon spent discovering the delicious Hokkaido produce used in our house-made delicacies.



open from 7am daily

☎ 0136 21 3088

www.j-sekka.com

A taste of Hokkaido

C3 Kabuki 1 and 2
p54 MIDDLE HIRAFU

At Kabuki 1 you can do make-it-yourself Okonomiyaki and Teppanyaki. Kabuki 2 (next door) is a full-service Teppan Yaki Restaurant. Early bird 20% for all meals – in by 6pm out by 7pm.



Open 7 days
5–11pm

www.nisekokabuki.com

Okonomiyaki and Teppanyaki Restaurant

E8 M's Cafe (Saison Club)
p53 HIGASHIYAMA

Try our huge traditional Japanese nabe hotpots with meat, seafood and vegetables. We have shabu shabu, sukiyaki and chanko hot pots.



Day 10am–3pm
Evening 5.30–7.30pm
Open daily
☎ 0136 44 3380

www.saison-club.com

Warm your body with our big hearty hot-pots

D2 Niseko Pizza
p54 UPPER HIRAFU

Niseko Pizza is a family run restaurant offering a menu with lots of love and the best quality ingredients. You will be delighted by the smell, enticed by the flavours, pleased by the atmosphere and comforted by the staff



Open 4–11pm weekdays
11am to 11pm weekends, holidays, Chinese New year
☎ 0136 55 5553

www.nisekopizza.jp

Dine in, Take-away and delivery

D2 Paddy McGinty's Irish Pub & Restaurant

Enjoy your perfect powder holiday at our popular pub and restaurant with its welcoming fun atmosphere, imported and local beers, wines, spirits and great value meals.

www.paddymcgintysirishpub.com

Value Drinks, Hearty Meals, Live Sports and Music

UPPER HIRAFU



Open daily
1pm till Late

☎ 0136 55 8020

D1 Senchou 2

UPPER HIRAFU

Founded in 1996. While we have seen many changes, the quality of our fresh seafood remains as good as ever. Try us while you are here. The food is so fresh it will dance on your tongue.

www.senchou.com

Best choice for gourmet seafood



Winter only
5pm-midnight
Open daily
☎ 0136 22 5454

C3 Souan Genghis Khan Lamb BBQ

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Goes perfectly with beer and makes a great party menu. Bring your family and friends for the ¥1700 all-you-can-eat for 60 minutes offer (reservation only, minimum 4 persons).

¥1700 all-you-can-eat barbecue for 60 minutes



Open daily
5pm-2am
(LO 1am)
☎ 090 2059 6701

F3 Taj Mahal

IZUMIKYO 1

Experience the best of authentic Indian cuisine and courteous service. Enjoy an authentic Indian meal with Indian beer at our prestigious restaurant. 10% discount on takeaway orders. Vegetarian meals available. Free local delivery.

www.tajmahalgroup.com

Visit India in Taj Mahal Niseko



Open all year, 7 days
11.30am to 10.30pm
☎ 0136 22 4566

B2 Sekka Dining

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Experience a taste of Hokkaido in style at Sekka Dining, with an impressive cellar and a menu that celebrates simplicity, innovation, and absolute delicacy in preparation.

www.j-sekka.com

Showcasing the best of Hokkaido



Open daily
Dinner from 6pm
Occasionally closed
☎ 0136 21 5022

A5 Shunsai

KUTCHAN

Having trained in various countries, our expert chef creates a colourful array of dishes. Bread freshly baked after ordering. Vegetarian menu available. Chilean wines from ¥2,000.

Creative fusion cuisine from land and sea



Lunch 11am-3pm
Dinner 5-9pm
Closed Sundays
☎ 0136 23 1882

C3 Steak Rosso Rosso

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Casual steak house with a contemporary flavour. Juicy, tender wagyu and Kobe beef and a variety of imported wines. Enjoy yourself to satiation with our stylish cuisine and refined hospitality.

www.rossorosso.net

A must for steak lovers!



Dinner 6pm-11pm
Occasionally closed
☎ 0136 21 7100

C4 The Barn

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Come and enjoy our alpine food and wine in Hokkaido's warmest and authentic bistro atmosphere. Drop in on the way back from the slopes for a snack and hot wine in our friendly bar on the upper floor, or stay the evening for dinner in the main restaurant.

www.nisekobarn.com

Hokkaido's one and only alpine bistro



Open 7 days 6pm to late
(LO 9.30pm food // drinks 11.30pm)
☎ 0136 23 0888

D2 Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen

UPPER HIRAFU

Asahikawa ramen is made from 100% Hokkaido wheat noodles served in a smooth and rich soup. There is a wide selection of dishes to choose from including Donburi rice bowls. From Asahikawa's original ramen restaurant.

New location this winter!



Open daily
10.30am-11pm
(LO 11pm)
☎ 0136 23 4549

C2 VBG - Vale Bar and Grill

UPPER HIRAFU

Full breakfast available from 7am. Serving an eclectic fusion-style menu all day. Daily Specials. Warm up with our VBG Ultimate Hot Chocolate or something a little stronger in our relaxed après lounge. Shots and cocktails. Live music events.

www.nisekoalpineaccommodation.com

Ski-in ski-out bar and dining



Open 7 days
7am to late
All-day dining
☎ 0136 21 5833

D3 WAGYU DINING SOU

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Try our popular Japanese food nabe hotpot for your experience of Japanese culture. We recommend Sukiyaki, Shabushabu and Kimuchi hotpot to get warm your body up in the cold Niseko winter.

Carefully selected Japanese wagyu beef and special soup



Dinner 6-10pm
7 days
☎ 0136 23 3048

B3 Yummy's

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Ceasar Salad, Avocado Salsa Salad, Chicken Wings, Bacon Pepper Steak, Baked Cream Potato, Cheese Fondue, wines and of course various styles of pizza. And more more!

www.yummypizza.com

Yummy homemade crust pizza and western foods restaurant



5-11pm daily
Delivery available in the Hirafu area
☎ 0136 21 2239

E4 Tsubara Tsubara

IZUMIKYO 1

Everyone falls in love with our carefully prepared soup made from delicious ingredients. Restaurant recently renovated to give improved access and a larger seating area. Enjoy our famous Hokkaido soup curry.

www.tsubaratsubara.com

Spicy, flavoursome and local Hokkaido curry soup



Lunch 11.30am-3pm
Evening 6-10pm
Closed 2nd/4th Wednesdays
☎ 0136 23 1116

B2 Wabi Sabi

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Quality prepared and cooked Yakitori (various skewered meats, seafood and vegetables barbecued). All food cooked in traditional Japanese style.

www.nisekowabisabi.com

Specialty Yakitori restaurant



Open 7 days
5-10pm

F3 Yakitori Yosaku

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Hirafu locals' favourite yakitori restaurant. Come in after a day of powder and try some of our Japanese barbecue, sukyaki and hot sake.

Serving yakitori every night until 3am



Open daily
6pm to 3am
☎ 0136 23 4390

B4 NICHII Shokudou

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Specializing in Japanese food & Italian food cooked with wood-fired oven. Please enjoy our delicious food!

<http://nichii.pittore.jp/>

Japanese and Italian food Iza-kaya with wood-fired oven.



Open daily
4pm to midnight
☎ 0136 22 2161

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

C2 Black Diamond Tours

UPPER HIRAFU

Check out Niseko's incredible backcountry or visit Rusutsu, Sapporo Kokusai or Teine Highland. We also have a range of backcountry tours to suit your lung capacity.



www.blackdiamondtours.com

Niseko's backcountry powder specialists

8am-8pm daily
Above Proski Demo Shop
Opp. The Vale Niseko
☎ 090 2054 8687

B4 Japanese Cultural Tours

KUTCHAN/HIRAFU

Tours will take you to various cultural attractions in Kutchan: Tea ceremony, laido sword demo, Taiko drums, sake-brewery tour and Japanese dinner. ¥5000/¥3000. Departs Seicomart Hirafu, ends in Kutchan.



www.niseko.co.jp/plat/

Special event - 'Coming-of-Age Day' 9th Jan (Sunday)

3-7.30pm
Dec 28/Jan 9,21/Feb 3,18
Bookings essential
☎ 0136 23 0222

E1 Niseko Foot

UPPER HIRAFU

Visit this popular relaxation salon and sample some of our many treatments. All different styles of massage are available for body and feet. 30-minute, 60-minute and 90-minute courses available. Big groups welcome. Also osteopathy and sports injuries.



www.grand-hirafu.jp/nisekofoot

Closest healing relaxation therapy spot to Centre 4 lift

Open daily
11am-10pm
Free pickup available
☎ 0136 22 1224

F1 NISS

HIRAFU AND HANAZONO 308

Niseko International Snowsports School is designed to assist your Hanazono/Hirafu snow holiday. With two great locations and a suite of programs we'll help you learn new skills, gain confidence and above all enjoy your time in the powder of Niseko.



www.hanazononiseko.com

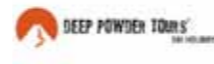
Kids are our speciality Hirafu and Hanazono

8.30am-4pm
Ticket sales/Kids Centre
Hirafu and Hanazono 308
☎ 0136 21 6688

E2 Deep Powder Tours Ski Holidays

UPPER HIRAFU

A licensed I.A.T.A international travel agent. Check out our website for a broad overview of the many ski resorts in Japan that we offer.



www.deeppowdertours.com

The ultimate ski and snowboard experience

7 days
10am-6pm
☎ 0136 21 5827

D1 Niseko Photography Tours

UPPER HIRAFU

From the deepest powder pics to group tours and family shots - Niseko Photography are the local professionals. Book a private tour and we will capture your priceless holiday memories while you and your friends or family cruise the mountain.



www.nisekophotography.com

Niseko's professional photographers

Gallery: midday-8pm
On the mountain:
all day, everyday
☎ 0136 22 5764

B2 Niseko Massage

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Experienced massage therapists, specialising in oil massage for recovery and relaxation. Early bird special offers discounted rates for massages before 2pm. From ¥6,000 per hour. Gift vouchers available.



www.nisekomassage.com

Sports and relaxation massage in the middle of Hirafu

7 Days
8am to 8pm
☎ 0136 22 0399

E3 NOASC

MIDDLE HIRAFU

NOASC is Niseko's premier winter adventure company. We offer ski school (skiing/snowboarding/telemarking) lessons for kids through to advanced skiers, powder lessons, mountain guiding, snowshoe tours, CAT skiing, Niseko Explorer Private tours, kids adventure school, and backcountry tours.



www.noasc.com

Just Do It adventure tours - an experience you won't forget

8:00am to 7:00pm
All year round
☎ 0136 23 1688

RETAIL & SHOPPING

B3 Cocoroya

KUTCHAN

Located on Kutchan high street, Cocoroya offers a wide range of Japanese antiques, furniture, Kimono and original handmade gifts. We also stock a selection of high-quality power stone jewellery.



www.cocoroya.jp

Take home a unique piece of Japan

11.00am-7.30pm
Open every day
☎ 0136 23 0008

D1 Fusion Sports Shop

HIRAFU AND HANAZONO

Great gear, good value, friendly staff. Fusion provides all your on mountain and après needs. Popular brands like Burton, Oakley, Dakine, The North Face, Volcom and more.



www.hanazononiseko.com

Gear for the elements at two locations in Niseko

Hirafu 8am-9pm
Hanazono 8.30am-5pm
☎ 0136 21 6633(Hirafu)
☎ 0136 23 0911(Hanazono)

D1 Niseko Photography Gallery

UPPER HIRAFU

Stunning prints and fine art canvas works. Niseko Photography's gallery is a showcase of beautiful photography from Niseko's stunning four seasons. We also stock t-shirts, handmade beanies and souvenirs as well.



www.nisekophotography.com

Photo gallery - fine-art prints and souvenirs

7 days
midday-8pm
☎ 0136 22 5764

B3 SEKKA STYLE Shop & Gallery

MIDDLE HIRAFU

A collection of unique photography, antiques and objects d'art selected by Shouya Grigg, the style-impresario behind the SEKKA projects.



www.sekkastyle.com

You can never get enough SEKKS

1-7pm
Closed Mondays
☎ 0908 274 4814

D3 Ezo Seafoods

MIDDLE HIRAFU

We stock seafood for takeout sourced daily from the coast - oysters, King Red Crab, salmon, and more. We also prepare seafood platters and fish and chips.



www.ezoseafoods.com

Niseko's seafood supplier

7 days
Open from 4pm
☎ 0136 22 3019

E3 Momiji Gallery

MIDDLE HIRAFU

Momiji Gallery offers an eclectic range of Art and Photography sourced from local and Hokkaido artists as well as antiques, postcards and memorabilia.



Something for everyone

Open 7 days
2-8pm
☎ 080 6098 7244

D2 Sakura

UPPER HIRAFU

Tucked in behind Paddy McGinty's, Sakura offers a wide selection of gifts including kimonos, geisha hairpins, pottery, paintings, traditional wooden furniture and more.



www.sakura-niseko.com

Your one-stop Japanese souvenir shop

Daily
1-7pm in winter
☎ 0136 21 7007

D2 Yukara

UPPER HIRAFU

Stocking a wide variety of souvenirs, original t-shirts, Hokkaido sweets and more. Remember your holiday and take home a souvenir with you.



Reopen on 2nd floor of Tozanken Asahikawa Ramen Restaurant

7 days
9am-10pm
0136 23 4546

* AFTER THE MELT



PURE ACTIVITIES IN NATURE

photo // niseko photography



SURFING

photo // niseko photography



NISEKO VIEW PLAZA



CLIMBING MT YOTEI

photo // glen claydon

DO you remember all those fun activities that you got to do as a child at school camp? Walking through elevated boardwalks and ropeways through trees, flying out of trees on a zip line, games of mini-golf, beach volleyball, horse riding and more. Niseko Village has these activities and more as a part of its Pure Activities in Nature, which is sure to thrill adults and children alike during the summer months.

WHILE not a surfing mecca, Hokkaido still has its fair share of great surf locations, and when the weather conditions are right, surfing here can be quite enjoyable. And, for those of you who think it might be too cold to surf here in summer, spare a thought for Niseko's diehard winter surfers trudging down through the knee-deep snow before getting into the frigid waters in a full-body wetsuit.

THIS is Niseko's michi-no-eki (meaning road station), which is one of more than a thousand throughout Japan generally used by towns to help promote tourism and commerce of the local area. Here you can find freshly grown local vegetables and produce direct from the farmers. By shopping here you can bypass the delays and expense of shopping in supermarkets and get the freshest possible produce.

THE most unmistakable natural landmark in the vicinity, Mount Yotei cries out to be climbed in summer and winter. While it's only half the height of Mt. Fuji, it's a heck of a lot tougher to climb. The car park is at the base, and from there you climb, and climb carrying your own food and drink, for close to four hours. The hike doesn't have to stop at the top, you can also circumnavigate the crater for full 360° views before heading down.

SUMMER // GOLF

SURROUNDED by mountains, Mount Yotei and flowing creeks, the Niseko area is an ideal spot to hit a few golf balls.

IMMENSELY popular in Japan, Niseko's golf resorts not only let golfers bask in the natural beauty of the area, but they also offer a break from the oppressive heat and humidity found on greens on the main island of Honshu.

There are 172 golf courses in Hokkaido – a third as many as Scotland, the home of golf. Five of these courses are within 15-minutes drive of Niseko. Local favourites include Niseko Village Golf Course, Niseko Golf Course and Hanazono Tokyu.

Weekends are prime time for golf especially for business-men and women catching up with their golfing friends.

The Japanese love golf and take it seriously, especially the grounds keepers. In the Niseko area, the greens are immaculate and fairways

are smooth and plush.

Due to the lack of development on the outskirts of Niseko, each golf course makes you feel like you're deep in the Hokkaido wilderness. Huge trees line the fairways, the grass is a deep green in colour and buildings can rarely be seen.

As the Niseko summer season gains popularity, there's no doubt that the area will soon become a popular golf hub in Asia.

Comparatively, the rates aren't overly expensive and the conditions are excellent. There are many deals and packages available during summer that cater to golfers, as well as season passes, which are a viable option when used well.

Whether it's for a friendly or business golf holiday, keep Niseko in mind – it's beautiful, not as hot as the rest of Asia and quiet.



photo // niseko photography

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photo: Glen Claydon

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Java Massage

Sports Remedial Relaxation

30 mins 4500Y
60 mins 8000Y

Bookings Phone: 0136 23 0788

Gnd Floor Java House, Sakura-Zaki St, Hirafu
We accept CASH only. Bookings essential. From 12pm to 8pm daily.

Java Bar

Hirafu's Coolest Lounge Bar

Open from 5pm til late
FREE Internet Hotspot

Live Music & DJs

Best Espresso Coffee in Niseko!
Sakura-Zaki St. Mid Hirafu Village, Shuttle Stop 4. t: 0136 23 0788

* TRAVEL FEATURE // nikko



PHOTOGRAPHY AND WORDS BY // ross cole-hunter

STEPPING into the ancient, forested sanctuary of Nikko feels like stepping back in time 400 years – before the Western influence, before the steel-reinforced concrete apartments, before the buzzing illuminated signs and back to a quieter and more beautiful time.

NIKKO is always the first place that I recommend to friends that ask me about travelling in Japan. Nikko is a UNESCO World Heritage site that is only two-hours north of Tokyo. While it is possible to visit during a day trip from Tokyo, I feel that rushing through a place like this will ruin half of what is special about Nikko – the serene, picturesque Japanese experience that everyone who visits Japan craves.

The main attractions of Nikko are the old temples and shrines, most of which were built over 400 years ago. Granted, there are much older temples and shrines in Japan, but while they have survived, the area surrounding hasn't; It's a little hard to feel the connection to

a 1300 year-old temple, when you're hearing the industrial sounds of heavy traffic and seeing the visual pollution of the neighbouring concrete buildings, and their connected jungle of overhead power cabling.

In contrast, Nikko is set in a remote and mountainous area, surrounded by giant trees, pristine rivers and mountains. While there is a city nearby, the actual location of the temples and shrines is enveloped within a fortress of

“ The serene, picturesque Japanese experience that everyone who visits Japan craves. ”

ancient pines, stretching up to dizzying heights that even light has a hard time penetrating. As you walk around this ancient site, you're removed from all modern stimuli and teleported back to an era of shogunates and samurais. If you're lucky, you may even spot some wild monkeys roaming around.

The temples and shrines within are the most spectacular that I have seen in Japan. The colours are vivid,

the wooden carvings are elaborate and the scale is unmatched. There are many famous carvings, including the 'hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil' trio of monkeys and a carving of an elephant based purely on a written description. It's far too easy to spend several hours looking at the details.

There is more to Nikko than just old buildings. The area surrounding is almost as popular with Japanese tourists, especially during the brief cherry

blossom period in spring, and the equally brief and stunning autumn colours that set the region ablaze in vivid hues of red and yellow. One of Japan's most famous waterfalls, the 97m-high Kegon Falls, also happens to be high in the hills surrounding Nikko.

Travel is only half experienced if local food is ignored. Nikko is famous for yuba, which is the skin that forms on the surface of heated soymilk.

It's a versatile ingredient that can be eaten raw, added to soup or even fried. There were several places to try Nikko yuba in all its variations, which I did and recommend. Raw it's a little sweet, in soup it's delicious and fried... just mmm. Apart from yuba, the other specialty of the area is soba noodles.

In my mind, Nikko is the ultimate Japanese experience. It is a culmination of exquisitely preserved cultural heritage set amongst equally exquisite and ancient natural surroundings. This truly sets Nikko apart from any other location in Japan.

Due to the special tourism partnership between Nikko and Kutchan, the Tourist Information Center in Kutchan has a variety of brochures on the area should you desire more information.

Where: Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture
Getting there: Trains frequently leave from Shinjuku and Asakusa in Tokyo.
When: Beautiful and popular in all seasons.
Cost: ¥1000 for combination entry to the temples/shrines

PROPERTIES FOR SALE | 售房 HOKKAIDO 北海道



NISEKO | 二世古

Niseko remains the focus for Hokkaido snow-lovers and is gaining popularity with summer visitors wanting a relaxing, cool climate vacation spot. We are selling a wide variety of properties in the greater Niseko area. These range from resort condominiums to resort houses and more local residences. Also, land from small blocks through to development sites.

北海道的二世古仍然是冰雪爱好者的首选，同时每年也接待无数的夏季游客。在这里他们可以享受一个气候凉爽，轻松的夏季。我们在二世古销售多种物业类型——从度假公寓到度假别墅，本地住宅，到小块土地，以及开发好的熟地快都在我们的销售范围内。除此之外，我们还销售商业地产，如酒店等。



LAKE TOYA | 洞爷湖

Lake Toya is just a 45 minute drive from Niseko and overseas visitors are increasing attracted by its beautiful lake scenery and hot springs. It is close to Rusutsu ski resort. We can provide Lake Toya land in all shapes and sizes ranging from a few hundred square meters to huge development blocks- all with stunning lake views. Also holiday homes and bigger properties such as hot spring facilities and hotels.

洞爷湖距离二世古仅有45分钟的车程，因其美丽的湖泊风光和著名的温泉吸引着越来越多的游客到此观光。洞爷湖距离留寿都滑雪胜地很近。在这里，我们可以提供各种物业类型，从面积几百平方米到上千平米的公寓楼，每一栋都拥有极美的洞爷湖景致。除此之外还有度假屋和更大的商业地产，如温泉设施及酒店业。



CHITOSE | 千岁

Chitose is the gateway to Hokkaido, hosting the region's international airport. It is a bustling modern city benefiting from tourism business and proximity to Sapporo. We can introduce you to numerous property investment opportunities- particularly individual residential apartments and apartment blocks- many returning over 10% per annum.

千岁是去北海道的必经之地——北海道的国际机场就在这里。这是一个繁华的现代都市，这得益于它的旅游业以及邻近札幌的地理位置。我们这里有各种各样的地产投资机会，特别是个人住宅公寓和公寓楼。许多项目的回报每年都超过10%。



FURANO | 富良野

Furano, in central Hokkaido, is famous for its summer lavender and winter powder snow. It is enjoying increasing numbers of overseas visitors, particularly from Asia. Talk to us about obtaining information on new resort apartments, holiday homes and land.

富良野位于北海道中部，以其夏季薰衣草和冬季粉雪而闻名。每年吸引着越来越多的游客到此游玩，特别是来自亚洲的游客。如果您对这里的度假酒店式公寓，度假屋和土地感兴趣，或是想了解更大规模地产的信息，如酒店或富良野地区的高尔夫球场，请联系我们。



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A property investment in Niseko offers tremendous potential for both lifestyle and financial returns. But the market is complex and dynamic. To invest wisely you need to consider many factors. In other words, you need to accurately see the big picture.

Led by long time realtor Jason King, the Hokkaido Real Estate team boasts over 60 exclusive listings, putting you ahead of the pack right from the start. Having focused on the Niseko market for over six years (a long time for this area), we have comprehensive knowledge from both local and international perspectives. We do not trade in the market, so we remain impartial, allowing us to always keep your best interests at heart.

In short, we'll objectively present you with a wide range of options and considerations so that you can make informed and intelligent investment decisions.

For a private discussion anytime, or to join a Wednesday evening 'Big Picture' seminar, call Jason on +(0136) 21 6211 or email jason@hokkaidorealestate.com



THIS WEEK'S FEATURE



**HOKKAIDO
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