

HOTEL THE MITSUI

K Y O T O

Press Release

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HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO in Japan Named in The World's 50 Best Hotels 2025

Hotel earns new placement among highly-anticipated list celebrating hotels across six continents worldwide

Kyoto, Japan – [HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO](#) has been named in the global ranking of The World's 50 Best Hotels 2025. The third edition of The World's 50 Best Hotels has been announced at a captivating awards ceremony in London and features industry-defining hotels spanning six continents worldwide.



This evening's awards ceremony once again united the global travel and hospitality community to celebrate the world's best hotels. Held at London's iconic Old Billingsgate on the banks of the River Thames, the event showcased exceptional hotel experiences that will inspire consumers, travelers and hoteliers around the globe.

Since opening in 2020, HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO has embodied the philosophy of “Embracing Japan’s Beauty,” blending tradition with modern luxury beside UNESCO-listed Nijo-jo Castle. Guests enter through a 300-year-old gate into 160 refined rooms, many with natural hot spring baths. Culinary highlights include TOKI, led by Bocuse d’Or 2027 Japan representative Chef Tetsuya Asano, and FORNI Italian dining. With a Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star rating since its debut, the hotel offers world-class hospitality and rich cultural immersion.

Emma Sleight, Head of Content for The World's 50 Best Hotels, says: “We’re delighted to return to London for the third edition of The World's 50 Best Hotels. It’s an honour to gather so many leading voices in travel, hospitality and hotels – and to celebrate the very best. Our warmest congratulations go to every hotel on this year’s list, each of which has clearly made a lasting impression on our newly expanded Academy of travel experts. We hope 2025’s list sparks inspiration for travellers as they plan their next trip.”

Message from Yoshihito KASEDA, General Manager at HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO

We are truly proud and honored to be recognized in The World's 50 Best Hotels 2025. This marks our very first time receiving this prestigious distinction, and we are humbled to be one of only five hotels in Japan – and the only property in Kyoto – acknowledged on this global stage.

This recognition would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our valued guests, our local community, trusted partners, and above all, our dedicated colleagues. As a hotel that reflects the beauty and spirit of Japan, we remain committed to delivering heartfelt hospitality and creating unforgettable experiences for guests from around the world, always striving to live up to this esteemed honor.

The World's 50 Best Hotels 2025 was revealed as part of a live countdown from No. 50 to No. 1. The ranking is complemented by a host of special awards alongside the first ever 51-100 list and reflects the very best travel experiences around the globe, collated from the votes of 800 anonymous experts. This voting panel – the 50 Best Hotels Academy – comprises a balanced mix of hoteliers, travel journalists, educators and seasoned luxury travelers, led by a group of industry-leading Academy Chairs.

About HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO, a Luxury Collection Hotel & Spa:

HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO is the first of the HOTEL THE MITSUI brand of iconic, ultra-luxury properties, designed to reflect the harmony between the four seasons and five senses. Located in the heart of Kyoto adjacent to the legendary Nijo-jo Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the 160-room hotel features three restaurants, including the innovative TOKI; Thermal Spring sourced from an on-site natural spring; and a modern tea ceremony alcove. Built on a 250-year-old historic site that was once the home of the executive branch of the Mitsui Family, the hotel presents an ambiance of refined sophistication and serves as a cultural gateway to discover Kyoto. The first Japanese

hotel to receive a Five Star rating from Forbes Travel Guide in its opening year's inspection—and maintain it for four consecutive years—is also featured on *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2024 Gold List and is the only Kyoto property, and one of just six in Japan, to earn the Michelin Three Key distinction in 2024.

The brand's new property, HOTEL THE MITSUI HAKONE, will open within 2026, featuring 126 rooms, each with its own natural hot springs.

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About The World's 50 Best Hotels

Following the success of The World's 50 Best Restaurants and The World's 50 Best Bars, 50 Best launched The World's 50 Best Hotels in 2023, marking the brand's first global launch since 2009. The World's 50 Best Hotels list is created by The World's 50 Best Hotels Academy, an influential group of more than 800 independent leaders, each selected for their expert opinion of the international hotel scene. The World's 50 Best Hotels event programme – including the awards ceremony and unveiling of the list – provides a unique opportunity to unite hoteliers, restaurateurs, bar owners, media, business and luxury travellers at a captivating celebration of hospitality, passion and talent. The first edition of the awards was held in London, UK, in September 2023.

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