

HOTEL THE MITSUI
K Y O T O

Press Release

February 12, 2026

**Thermal Spring Spa at HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO Awarded
Prestigious Five-Star Rating for Forbes Travel Guide 2026 Star Awards
Hotel is also awarded Five-Star Rating for Fifth Consecutive Year**



Located in the heart of Kyoto, adjacent to Nijō Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO Thermal Spring SPA has been awarded the prestigious Five-Star rating for the first time in the spa category of the Forbes Travel Guide 2026 Star Awards.

In addition, HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO has once again earned a Five-Star rating as a property, marking the fifth consecutive year since its first year of evaluation. Five-Star properties are recognized for delivering an outstanding experience and consistently offer a highly customized level of service.

With this honor, HOTEL THE MITSUI KYOTO stands as the only hotel outside Tokyo to have been recognized with “The World’s 50 Best Hotels 2025” and “Michelin Key distinction of Three Keys 2025,” further affirming its position among the world’s leading luxury destinations.



A Message From Mr. Yoshihito Kaseda, General Manager

We are truly honored and proud to have been awarded a Five-Star rating in the Forbes Travel Guide 2026 Star Awards for the fifth consecutive year, and to have received a Five-Star rating in the Spa category for the first time. This prestigious distinction is a testament to the unwavering support of our valued guests and the dedication of our team, whose commitment to exceptional service makes this achievement possible. I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to this success.

As we continue to uphold the HOTEL THE MITSUI brand hallmark of “warm and relaxing luxury,” we look forward to fostering a deep connection with HOTEL THE MITSUI HAKONE, our new property opening in late 2026. With an enduring commitment to hospitality which embodies the beauty of Japan, we remain devoted to crafting unique and unforgettable experiences for our guests.

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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 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 five consecutive years—is also featured on *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2024 Gold List and is the only Kyoto property, and one of just seven in Japan, to earn the Michelin Three Key distinction in 2025.

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

