

beinspired

ISSUE 6

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER WORLD WITH

SMALL LUXURY HOTELS OF THE WORLD™



A TRUE GEM

We have unearthed some of the most valuable stones

FRESH PERSPECTIVE

The best locations for a truly memorable lunch

RELEASE YOUR POTENTIAL

Take time to pause and look at the ways to be conscious & healthy



slh.com



RYUKYU ISLANDS

Yakushima is a mysterious island situated off the southern coast of Kyushu that is renowned for its ancient cedar trees and 2,000m high mountains. **Sankara Hotel & Spa Yakushima** is a stylish, secluded retreat known for its spa herbal heat treatments. Further south, in Okinawa Prefecture, is Miyakojima Island – a perfect beach paradise. **Shigira Bayside Suite Allamanda** is an all-suite resort on a powder soft sandy beach; **The Shigira** – the sister resort – has ten spectacular villas each with a private pool.

UNZEN

The spa town of Unzen attracts city dwellers looking for calm and serenity – they hike through Japan's oldest national park, Unzen-Amakusa, and view the lava dome of Mt. Fugen-dake (this volcano last erupted in 1990). **Unzen Kanko Hotel** is a characterful 1930's property that has three hot spring baths in which to relax: a family bath, a sulphur spring bath and an open air bath. Just remember to ask about bathing etiquette!



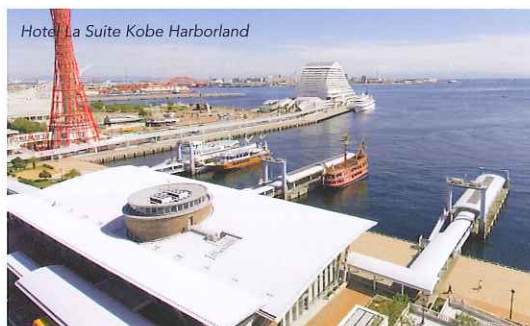
TOKYO

Though very little of Old Tokyo remains, the Imperial Palace and the Meiji Shrine are two serene oases that evoke Tokyo's grand history. The **Tokyo Station Hotel** is moments from the Imperial Palace. The station building has been a feature of the city skyline for over 100 years and was recently renovated to include a hotel that fuses vintage glamour with 21st century luxury. Be sure to have sushi in Tokyo – nigiri sushi was invented here in 1824.

KOBE

Kobe was one of the first Japanese ports to open to international trade in 1868 and its cosmopolitan flair is attributed to that early foreign introduction. The sleek

Hotel La Suite Kobe Harborland enjoys a prime position on the waterfront, in the shopping district of Harborland. All rooms have ocean view terraces, and you can try the famed Kobe beef in either of its gourmet restaurants.



NARA

Japan's first permanent capital (established 710), Nara is steeped in the history of samurai, Shinto and Buddhism. Located in a deer park, the Todai-ji Temple houses the world's largest bronze Buddha statue – a major attraction in Japan. **Noborioji Hotel Nara** is within walking distance of the statue, and with just 12 rooms, it offers understated elegance and impeccable service.

LAKE BIWA

Japan's largest freshwater lake lies close to the ancient capital of Kyoto and has long been eulogised in Japanese poetry and literature. **L'Hotel du Lac** is a modern villa set within a 13-hectare estate on the lakeshore. The views change dramatically with the seasons, as does the Modern French cuisine. A dedicated shochu bar provides over 100 varieties of the Japanese spirit.

