



Hamada Vineyard

ハマダヴィンヤード

MIKASA · HOKKAIDO · JAPAN

REGION	Mikasa, Hokkaido
EST.	2015
VINEYARD	5 ha
GRAPES	Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Bacchus, Pinot Noir, plus Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris and 4 more

ABOUT THE WINERY

Hamada Vineyard sits on the snow-heavy hills of Tatsuppu in Mikasa, a former coal town in Hokkaido's Sorachi valley that has become one of Japan's most serious cold-climate wine zones. Its founder reached the slope by an unlikely road. Hirofumi Hamada spent thirty-two years as a cancer researcher — a University of Tokyo-trained physician who led a molecular-biology therapy division at thirty-five and held professorships in Sapporo and Tokyo — before leaving the laboratory at fifty-six to grow grapes. He studied farming in Sapporo, took up Mikasa's offer of land to new growers, and planted his first vines in 2015.

The estate is a three-person family operation: Hamada, his wife Kyoko, also a doctor, and their son Reo, who now runs the vineyard and carries the label forward.

WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

A scientist's precision applied to a farmer's patience. Hamada's stated aim is wine for small celebrations and everyday special occasions, bottles that in his words bring back the land, the scenery and the people behind them. The method is empirical rather than dogmatic: good grapes make good wine, so the work lives in the vineyard and at the sorting table.

The estate is not certified organic or natural, and the family is candid about learning by doing. When disease cut the 2022 crop to a fraction and birds devastated 2023, they revised their growing and installed netting rather than reaching for easy fixes, and 2024 rewarded them with their best harvest yet. The handover to son Reo is already underway, keeping the vineyard a small, hands-on family concern on the Sorachi wine road.

ABOUT SORACHI

Sorachi (空知) is Hokkaido's inland wine zone, centered on Iwamizawa northeast of Sapporo. More continental than coastal Yoichi, it is home to Bruce Gutlove's 10R Winery custom-crush incubator and a growing cluster of natural-leaning small domains.

www.d-i.wine/library/region/sorachi