



# TOKYO NEWS – in Inagi

STUDENT EDITION, December 2024

## Savoring the Flavor: A Journey Through Inagi City's Fruit Industry and Sweet Treats



This is the state of grapes before harvest at Enokido farm in 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Photo by Amane Sekiguchi

Inagi City is famous for fruits products, especially Japanese grapes and pears. If you enjoy the fruits, there are two places to visit in Inagi. The first place is **Cake Factory Whip** in Inagi, Tokyo. It is a cake shop where people can find sweets made from local fruits. Visitors can enjoy many kinds of sweets such as fruits tarts, strawberry *daihuku*, which is *mochi* filled with sweet soy beans and strawberry, and fruit jelly.

At Cake Factory Whip, you will learn about their sweets made from local grapes and pears as well as the challenges in product development and maintaining quality. A visit to this fantastic cake shop help customers learn more about the secret to producing these remarkable local sweets.

When the owner was asked about the shop and why they used *Inagi* pears and grapes, he said that it was because the city mayor wanted to make use of

these natural resources to promote the fruit industry of *Inagi* and requested him to produce the sweets products.

The second place you should visit is “**Enokido**” farm in *Inagi* city, where Japanese grapes and pears are grown. The farm's owner said that pears and grapes are the most delicious to eat raw and well chilled. This farm are characterized by their low acidity. The freshly harvested grapes and pears had nice freshness in its sweet and acidic taste.

In order to harvest such delicious fruits, there seems to be some difficulties. The first one is to grow it in response to the unstable climate. In other words, it is important to respond when a storm comes or when it is very hot.

Our visit to Cake Factory Whip and *Enokido Farm* gave us an insight into the difficulties of growing fruits and developing products using local fruits like grapes and pears. This helped us appreciate the sweets that we eat



and recognize how hard it is to produce them.

The Enokido Farm is 23 minutes away on foot from Inagi Station while the Cake Factory Whip is a lot closer-only 5 minutes away from the station on foot.

By Class Kei (1) Serina Iwawaki, (3) Kaori Kitahashi, (6) Amane Sekiguchi

Photo above: These are freshly baked tart at Cake Factory Whip on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Photo below: These are peaches under LED light at Cake Factory Whip on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024.



Photo by Kaori Kitahashi

## Inagi City's Unique Approach to Nature-Based Education

**H**ave you ever heard of Inagi City in Tokyo? Located in the suburbs of Tokyo, this city is home to Komazawa Gakuen Girl's School and is known for its lush natural surroundings and high quality of life. Beyond its scenic environment, Inagi is home to unique attractions, including amusement parks and a nursery school that provides nature-based education.

The said nursery school named Hongoyushi nursery school has implemented nature education by making use of nature around it. The teachers have the children commune with nature on a daily basis. For example, they get the chance to cut the tree by themselves, make some toys made of woods, make a fire. Through these experiences, they will gradually be able to do everyday things on their own.

Moreover, they have several seasonal events throughout the



*A forest called Yuushi No Satoyama*

*Photo by nursery school teachers*

year. One of the unique events they offer is going to a special place surrounded by nature which is called Yuushi No Satoyama, a natural play area where parents and children can enjoy nature together. This special playground where the children can play safely has swings and ladders made of natural materials. These playground equipment are handcrafted by the teachers. Also,

they grow some vegetables there and harvest them to cook and eat.

Nature Education and its purpose is not a common knowledge as it is not popular like others. However, the interview with the teachers was an enlightenment that the children would get involved in the society in the future due to their interest in nature and the experience of fun nature activities. We envied the

children because we wanted to experience nature education when we were in nursery school. The fact that the teachers were making playground equipment by themselves for the children. They believe making the equipment by hand from the nature materials enjoyable and convey the joy of doing so to the children, so that the children can know the joy of working.

The biggest takeaway from this is that "nature education" makes both the teachers and children happy. The joy and realization that the children get from this experience is fulfilling not just for them, but for the teachers as well.

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By Class Kei (2) Kokone Kaji, (7) Kanon, Nishimura, and (9) Yuna Minowa  
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### SPORTS

## Community Sports Soccer sponsored by Inagi City

**S**occer is a worldwide sports and it's very popular from adult to young children in Inagi City, Tokyo. The city supports and sponsor the professional women soccer team, Tokyo Verdy Beleza. This team is the most popular in Inagi city of 12 professional women soccer teams, which compete in a league match, "Women Empowerment League (WE League)." By supporting this women professional soccer team, Inagi City try to get the citizens interested in sports.

Tokyo Verdy Beleza is founded in 1981 as a women's team of Yomiuri Soccer Club. It is the only professional soccer team in Inagi City. The name was changed to Nittele Belleza in 2000, and to Nittele Tokyo Verdi Belleza from 2020. The team's current home stadium is Ajinomoto Field Nishigaoka, Tokyo. Before that, it was also held at Inagi Central Park General Ground in Inagi city.

Since our school, Komazawa Girls' High School, also a sponsor



*Photo by Komazawa staff*

of Tokyo Verdy Beleza and provides the elementary kids soccer classes on the field of our school, we had a chance to interview one of the players. Her name is Seina Ikegami. She was born in Saitama, and started to play soccer there. She was selected by the readers of "We Love Women Soccer Magazine" as the best player in 2024 when she was featured on the said sports magazine

The following is the interview;

Q. At what age did you start playing soccer?

A. I started playing seriously in the second grade of elementary school.

Q. What motivated you to start

playing soccer?

A. I began taking soccer lessons on my parents' recommendation to overcome my shyness.

Q. Are there any personality traits or characteristics that are suited for becoming a professional soccer player?

A. I have a competitive nature and dislike losing.

Q. How do you manage your health? Is weight management important in soccer?

A. I manage my health by going to bed early, waking up early, and eating three balanced meals. For weight management, I avoid gaining excess fat, as it makes movement more difficult.

Q. What do you do on your days off?

A. I read books and watch Netflix.

Q. What do you usually practice?

A. I do warm-ups, rolling practice, and strength training.

Q. Are there any specific training methods unique to the Beleza team?

A. We practice drills to improve our skills, such as ball movement.



*Photo by Komazawa staff*

Q. What are the challengers or difficulties of continuing?

A. Injuries and not getting the results I want can be tough. During those times, I focus on challenging myself again.

"Sometimes you can't avoid not getting results, but I'm working hard to get back on track," she said, showing how committed she is to pushing through tough times. Ikegami's story shows how important hard work, dedication, and a strong mindset are for success in soccer.

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By Class Kei (4) Miyu Sato, (5) Miyuu Shibayama, (11) Rena Yamamoto  
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# Exploring the Charms of Inagi City

Inagi city is located an hour and a few minutes from Tokyo station, the center of Tokyo. However, Inagi city has a variety of entertainment options. For example, the city has 13 temples and a big amusement park called “Yomiuri Land”, which is popular throughout Japan. Moreover, it is very famous for the fruit orchards. Both adults and children can enjoy the entertainment of Inagi city.

First, we will introduce an old temple named “Myokaku-ji” temple. It was built at the end of the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In the period, a big stone tablet called “*Itabi*” was built there. This type of stone tablets was built throughout Japan 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. They are memorial towers to pray for the souls of the deceased and for their comfort in the afterlife. The one we can see in Myokakuji is designated cultural property. Therefore, we can learn the history of mid-century in Japan. Also, you can enjoy the temple through all seasons. In spring, beautiful plum blossoms can be seen there. During early summer season, you can see hydramaea.

If you visit “Myokaku-ji” temple, you should be careful because Japan has the same named temples and the path to the temple is difficult to figure out.

Second, “Yomiuri Land” is the one of the most fun amusement parks in Japan to visit. This amusement park is divided into 7



*Beautiful illumination in Winter Yomiuri Land, 2024*

*Photo by Risa Yamamoto*

areas and has many variations of the rides. The most popular ride is a roller coaster called “*Bandi*”. It takes a long and steep inclines and sudden drops, goes upside down on a high speed, and twists on tracks several times. It is very fun and thrilling.

Thirdly, Inagi City produces pears the most in Tokyo. We recommend you visit and try to pick up pear at the fruit farms. Especially, a fruit farm, “*Seigyokuen*” is a fruit farm which is the best place to experience for picking up pears. Moreover, it is the birthplace of Inagi pears.

Pear-picking means that you can pick up as many pears as you like. When you try this wonderful

experience, you should check the weather, put on sneakers and clothes that are easy to move around. The best time to visit is the season from early August to late September. In addition to the recreational facilities introduced above, Inagi City has

many parks and nice restaurants, so you should come and visit our city.

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*By Kei Class*

*(8) Yume Fukuyama, (12) Airi Yoshiizawa, (11) Risa Yamamoto*  
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*Good Myokakuji building 2024*



*Photo by Risa Yamamoto*

## TOKYO NEWS – in Inagi

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