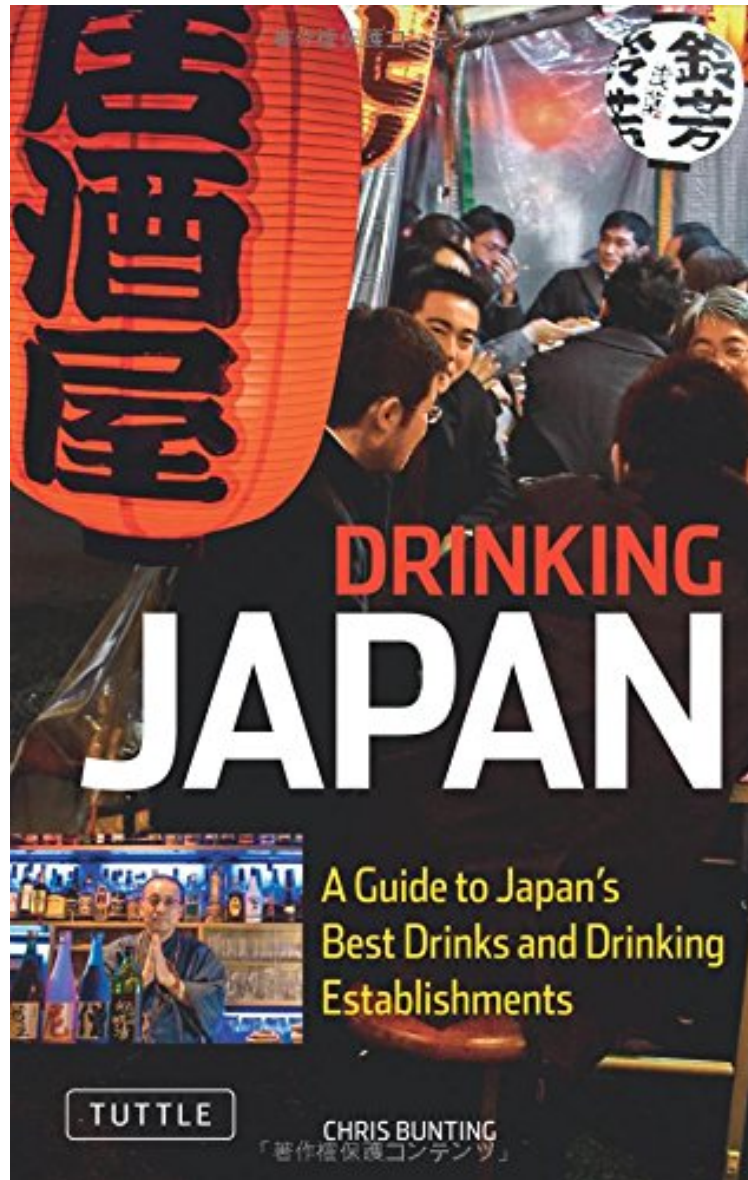


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Drinking Japan: A Guide to Japan's Best Drinks and Drinking Establishments

Chris Bunting

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Chris Bunting : Drinking Japan: A Guide to Japan's Best Drinks and Drinking Establishments before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Drinking Japan: A Guide to Japan's Best Drinks and Drinking Establishments:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Japanese Drinking Bar Guide!By CustomerWorth the purchase if you're going to Japan and look for places that has the best drinking spots. I was mostly keen on finding and drinking hard to find Japanese Whiskys and beers and this book did not let me down. I found the best whisky bars in this book; got a chance to try and have the most rare Japanese Whiskys in the world at a reasonable price. This book even pointed me to some beer bars that had some American Whiskey which are nearly impossible to find in the United States (Thomas H Handy, William Larue Weller Vintages, Elijah Craig 18 and 21 years, among many others) at a reasonable price!When I go back to Japan, this book will be in my backpack!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Worthy of a toastBy Sean MiyaguchiThoroughly researched and attractively presented, Drinking Japan provides enough insights into the country's unique bar culture and beverages to establish it as a valuable reference both for newcomers and those more acquainted with the delights of Japanese liquor.Delving into the history and traditions of the country's various brewed, distilled and fermented beverages, author Chris Bunting also highlights more than 120 standout examples from among Japan's countless superb licensed establishments.Each chapter focuses on a major drink category - such as whisky, sake, shochu and Okinawan awamori - while listing bars specializing in it, complete with maps and directions from the nearest train stations. (Particularly useful in a country where rail is the primary mode of transport in major cities, and for readers who will likely be in no state to drive if putting the book to good use.)Bar listings are conveniently arranged by location in the book's front inside cover, while listed alphabetically at the back. The majority of the featured bars are in and around Tokyo, however, there are several write-ups for bars in other areas popular with visitors such as Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima.For visitors with little or no Japanese language ability, a section on useful words and phrases should make the Japanese bar experience much easier to navigate.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good choiceBy Oron LernerI dont know how up-to-date the book is.The history reviews are excellent, filled with unique and colorful details as to the history of drinking culture in Japan, which makes for fascinating reading.The book then divides a variety of bars in Japan according to their specialties - more often these bars wouldnt be easy to find by a stranger and Ive had several people claim to have been right at the bars' doors and didnt know they had stood right next to an excellent bar, and so missed the opportunity to enter. The division of topics however is a little limited - Sake bars, Shochu bars, awamori. Then whiskies, wines, beers and etc...As much as selection is an impressive bar quality, there is more to a bar than just a huge selection of brands to choose from and those unique bars with special locales, techniques, bartenders, experties and other unique qualities do not get enough mention in this book, that eventually seems to review the brand-selection in Japan rather than the bars in Japan.

Japan is home to some of the world's most interesting alcoholic beverages and to a phenomenally energetic bar scene. Drinking Japan is the first wide-ranging survey in English of the country's unique alcohol culture, with detailed coverage not only of the well-known rice brew sake but of much less explored traditions like shochu, awamori, beer, wine, and Japanese whisky. The book is a practical guide, offering richly illustrated reviews of 122 drinking establishments in Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, Hiroshima, Okinawa and further afield. The reviews are written with the newly arrived visitor to Japan in mind, with price guides, language help, advice on food and drink choices, and maps and directions to get you to the bars. Drinking Japan offers detailed background on more than 150 of Japan's best drink brands and the people that make them. There is a long chapter on the history of sake and the contemporary sake world, and the first extensive descriptions in an English-language book of Japan's indigenous spirits, shochu and awamori. Whole chapters are devoted to Japan's whisky, craft beer and wine industries, offering insights that have until now not been available to readers in English.

"Ultimate guide to drinking in Japan." The Japan Times "From sampling traditional awamori on Okinawa to roaming the legendary Susukino district in Sapporo, Drinking Japan is filled with a staggering amount of information ... () incredibly complete histories." Metropolis magazine "There are many things to love about Japan, but its exceptional bars and drinking culture are among the things at the top of my list. Anyone with the same yen (heh) for Tokyo-and-beyond bars should check out "Drinking Japan: A Guide to Japan's Best Drinks and Drinking Establishments." Written by Chris Bunting after a year and a half of research (i.e., drinking his way across Japan) and published by Tuttle in April, the book combines a guide to Japanese spirits with reviews of the bars devoted to them." Los Angeles Times "It is in Bunting's travelogue approach wherein we find Drinking Japan's greatest strengths. We journey with him from one bar to another, listening in on conversations with bartenders who proudly report on the provenance and aging of their prized liquors. We vicariously drink through Japan while nestled comfortably on a couch at home. Bunting does a fantastic job of putting each bar in context." LA Weekly "An excellent guide for anyone interested in a drink." Japan Visitor From the AuthorDrinking Japan is written as a practical guide, but I hope it is also a fun read. There are loads of anecdotes covering all sorts of high-jinks through Japanese drinking history and lots of detail on the fascinating people who make the contemporary Japanese alcohol scene so special. The book is richly illustrated, and offers Japanese language support aimed at helping people who do not speak much Japanese to experience this fascinating drinking culture.Please check out the video on my author page.- Chris BuntingAbout the AuthorChris

Bunting is a Tokyo-based journalist who has written for a variety of publications, including the London Times and the Independent. He currently works for a leading Japanese daily newspaper. He is a regular in bars in Tokyo's Shimbashi, Shibuya, Ebisu and Shinjuku drinking districts.