

# 兒玉 千晴 (Chiharu Kodama)



## Profile

The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation proprietress of the "Hotel and Restaurant Shunkouen."

As a student, she studied language and architecture for five years at a university and vocational school in the UK. She wants to use her English skills and architectural knowledge to convey the charm of Usuki to people around the world.

### ■What we value:

- Interacting with people without prejudice
- Inheriting culture

### ■What you can learn and do:

- The history of Usuki and Shunkouen
- The significance of the Ryotei, a traditional Japanese restaurant, in modern times

### ■Sights to see and flavors to savor:

- Usuki Stone Buddha
- Pufferfish dishes (I want people to discover the delicious flavor of summer pufferfish)

### ■My "SDGs×#〇〇"

- # No food waste
- # Cooking and serving all parts of pufferfish
- # No waste of food or energy by adopting an appointment-only system

## Inheriting and Preserving the Spirit of Hospitality and Traditional Flavors

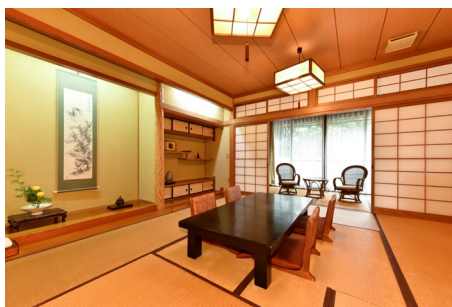
Tasting authentic pufferfish cuisine and staying in the back tatami room of a pure Japanese-style guest room is one of the best ways to enjoy the town of Usuki. "Shunkouen" is traditional Japanese inn and restaurant that fulfills such a wish. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation proprietress of this restaurant is Ms. Chiharu Kodama.

Although she has been focused on raising her four children for a long time, since 2020, she has been leading an even busier life balancing child-rearing and her job of being a proprietress to help her mother-in-law, Tazuko, who fell ill. "The Ryotei industry shrinks when there is a lack of entertainment culture. But this town has pufferfish cuisine and a spirit of preserving old things and traditions. I think it's precisely because of Usuki's unique culture that Shunkouen has been able to continue to this day," she said with a calm expression, conveying her words infused with love for her hometown.

Since this place is also an inn, she spends a lot of time interacting with customers. She says it's also her role to connect the region and customers by conveying information about tourist attractions and the town. The famous pufferfish cuisine is of course popular, but the quaint buildings and gardens are also popular with overseas customers. "According to the season and purpose, I arrange flowers and hanging scrolls for visitors." She said with a smile that she has never learned flower arrangement herself, but is imitating her mother-in-law. She looked up at the sky as if pondering the flowers and scrolls of the day. It was another day of nice weather in the town again.



A former samurai residence turned into a traditional Japanese inn & restaurant. The building and garden are quaint.



An accommodation building with different types of rooms, from Japanese-style to Western-style.



The popular full course changes in summer and winter.