

YES! IT'S WINTER!

#30 | DEC'18

SAT, 01 DEC — THURS, 13 DEC 2018

WHAT'S ON[®]

NISEKO



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IT'S FREE! YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO NISEKO — EVENTS, PROMOS & AWESOME DEALS!



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YES!

IT'S WINTER

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+ MORE!

Teppanyaki Shiraoi Wagyu Fillet with Crispy Kabocha Bacon Wontons, Ginger Niseko
Photo by Yasuyuki Shimanuki

5 MINUTES WITH DENNIS VAN DEN BRINK

DNA NISEKO — GREEN FARM CAFE & TEMPORADA / GINGER / WILD BILL'S

INTERVIEW BY CLARA TAN | PHOTO BY JACINTA SONJA

Chef and entrepreneur (and a legend in the Niseko food scene) Dennis van den Brink has opened a string of successful restaurants — Green Farm Cafe (moving to its exciting new location at Shiki Niseko), Ginger (2017), Niseko Gelato (2016), Wild Bill's (2006), and soon-to-be-opened Temporada (in mid December 2018). Since coming from Fukushima to Niseko in 2006, Dennis' mantra has been to keep his dishes simple and let the ingredients speak for themselves. With his 'Farm to Fork' concept, Dennis uses high quality, fresh ingredients from Hokkaido to create delectable dishes for everyday dining. We managed to catch Dennis for a chat about his new food ventures, and yes — his new look.

What are your plans for Green Farm and Temporads, Ginger, and Wild Bills this season?
The new Green Farm Cafe at Shiki will be our deli and coffee roastery; Ginger at AYA Niseko is our pan-Asian brasserie; Wild Bill's revamped with a Latin inspired menu; Temporada (at Shiki) will offer modern Hokkaido tapas dining and wine bar. We worked with a 5-star hotel executive chef and food consultant, Jeff Hurst, to develop our menus. All menus will have vegetarian and vegan options. We will also be staying open all year round.

Tell us about your new tapas bar Temporada, what's its story?
The word 'seasons' is 'shiki' in Japanese, and 'temporada' in Spanish. It was only natural to choose the Spanish equivalent of 'shiki' to match the cuisine. Temporada at Shiki will be our take on Spanish tapas using Hokkaido sourced ingredients.

The new Green Farm Cafe and coffee roastery will also be in Shiki. Tell us more about it.
We will be roasting our own beans for Black Powder Roasting company. We use beans from Africa and Indonesia. At Green Farm Cafe, we make a lot of coffee and I am a person who likes to be control of where my ingredients come from. But really, the decision to roast my own beans was out of pure curiosity!

And the question that everyone has been dying to ask — why did you cut your dreadlocks?
Haha — I had my dreads for 20 years, I felt it was time to let it go.

*Green Farm was the winner of Best Of Niseko Awards(Coffee) in 2018.

DNANISEKO.COM / 0136-55-8825



6 DELISH CHEESEY BREADS

BY WHAT'S ON

On the run and having a cheese craving? These are some of our favourite cheesy morsels to a quick grab-and-go!



EDAMAME & CHEESE BUN
Farine at Lucky (Kutchan) | ¥118
With a light crisp crust, this tasty edamame and cheese super soft roll is a perfect way to start the day.

PULL-APART GARLIC CHEESE BREAD
Farine at Lucky (Kutchan) | ¥356

A spin on the classic garlic bread — pull apart and share at the table!



ANCHOVY & CHEESE BUN
Guzu Guzu | ¥284

The gorgeous cheese crusted bun is filled with cubed potato and anchovy filling, which gives the whole bun a mild, savoury umami taste.



TOMATO & MOZZARELLA PASTRY
An Deli | ¥380

This delicious tomato and mozzarella filled puff pastry makes a perfect midday bite!



CHEESE & ONION BUN
White Rock Baking Company (Kutchan) | ¥180

Try this Japanese-style cheese and onion soft bun with savoury bacon chunks.



SPINACH & FETA PASTRY ROLL
Koko at Odin Place | ¥350

Baked fresh daily, Koko's flakey and buttery, Spinach Feta pastry roll is a quick warm-me-up treat before or after your shred on the mountain.



breakfast
lunch
dinner

AYA Niseko 1 FL. In front of family lift
ph/fax: 0136 55 6293
eat@ginger.restaurant
www.ginger.restaurant

LOCAL'S TIPS: DECEMBER

BY WHAT'S ON

DECEMBER IS THE BEST TIME TO...

The snow gods have answered our prayers! If you're new in town and wondering what to do on or off mountain, let our locals spill their secrets for December.



ANDREW SPRAGG
Rising Sun Guides | Director

"...take an avalanche course. With a full winter ahead and endless backcountry options about to open up, getting educated in backcountry safety will empower you to start exploring, setting you up for an epic winter!"



ROB EVANS
Niseko Snowshoe | Perpetuator of Stoke

"...establish a winter routine that will set you up for a great season! Find your go to morning cuppa, invest in a yoga season pass, and try the new restaurants. Don't forget to wax your snow shovel!"



SHIZUKA MATSUBARA
Sekka Lab / Somozu | Manager

"...learn about Hokkaido's history through its art. Somozu Gallery is hosting the 'Hokkaido Through the Ages' exhibition. Learn through art and artefacts from Hokkaido's inhabitants, as far back as 10,000 years ago."

SEASON SPECIAL 2018/19



WHAT'S NEW THIS SEASON

BY WHAT'S ON | FEATURE SPONSORED BY NISEKO PROPERTY

Niseko is literally transforming before our eyes – from season to season, and from year to year. This winter, there are plenty of exciting new openings – from new dining venues, night life, activities, and cultural experiences in and around Hirafu. The What's On team have compiled a couple of new places for you to check out this season.

HIRAFU RESORT CENTRE

01 AJ GALLERY BY YOSHITOMO DESIGN | HIRAFU INTERSECTION

12:00-20:00 (varies) Opens 01 December

Fine art prints and bespoke furniture. Explore the works of local photographer, Aaron Jamieson; and custom woodwork by local boutique designer, Yoshitomo Design.

AARONJAMIESON.COM / YOSHITOMODESIGN.COM

03 KUMO | SKYE NISEKO

11:30-23:00 (daily) Opens 01 Dec

Japanese soul-food by day, a dazzling Hokkaido izakaya by night. Kumo Restaurant is grounded on signature Hokkaido ingredients like legendary Rusutsu Park and seafood from the coastal waters of Otaru and Hakodate.

SKYENISEKO.COM / [0136-55-6421](tel:0136-55-6421)

04 ROKETTO | THE MAPLES

Opening hours and date TBC

Roketto is the baby sister of Wild Rocket restaurant in Singapore (Asia's 50 Best Restaurants). Chef Willin Low brings his signature Mod-Singapore cuisine to the slopes of Niseko, serving casual noodle & rice bowls featuring South East Asian flavours with Japanese ingredients.

THEMAPLESNISEKO.COM

02 TEMPORADA | SHIKI

17:00-24:00 (daily) Opens mid December

Modern Hokkaido tapas style dining and world-class wines, in a brand new sophisticated designed space in the centre of town. Premium Hokkaido and locally sourced ingredients.

DNANISEKO.COM / [0136-23-3354](tel:0136-23-3354)

05 TAMASHII | HIRAFU

12:00-02:00 (daily) Opens early Dec

Iconic "Tamashii" bar reopens for the 2018/19 season, serving a wide variety of fresh seafood and casual bar snacks. Open for lunch and dinner, then stay in the lounge for drinks and music.

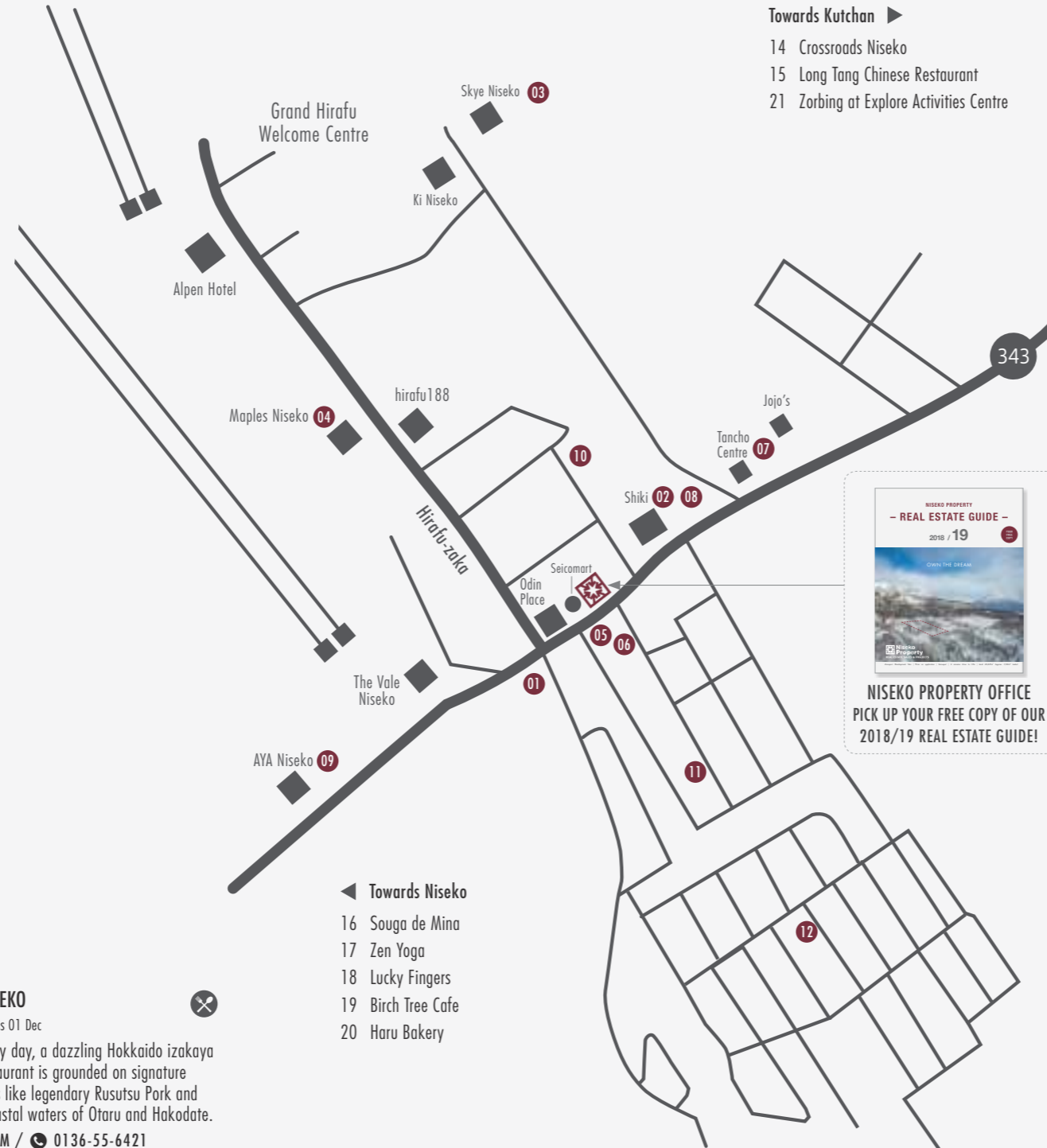
TAMASHII.BAR / [0136-23-2222](tel:0136-23-2222)

Towards Niseko

- 16 Souga de Mina
- 17 Zen Yoga
- 18 Lucky Fingers
- 19 Birch Tree Cafe
- 20 Haru Bakery

Towards Kutchan

- 14 Crossroads Niseko
- 15 Long Tang Chinese Restaurant
- 21 Zorbing at Explore Activities Centre



NISEKO PROPERTY OFFICE
PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR 2018/19 REAL ESTATE GUIDE!

06 KOBE TEI | MOMIJI-ZAKA

17:00-23:00 (daily)

Kobe beef is the most premium ranked wagyu in Japan. Best of the best picked and treated by experienced chef. Enjoy a Japanese style yakiniku, in a traditional Japanese atmosphere.

KOBETEI.JP / [0136-21-2229](tel:0136-21-2229)

07 YOKO OH-NO'S | TANCHO CENTRE

17:00-late (daily)

The newest bar & eatery, slinging boozy cocktails and tasty food in town.

YOKOOHNS.COM / [0136-55-6116](tel:0136-55-6116)

08 GREEN FARM CAFE | SHIKI

07:00-21:00 (daily) Opens mid December

The good 'ol Green Farm Cafe is back with a new look and a new venue. Cafe, deli and coffee roasted in-house, featuring a hearty farm to fork deli menu. A showcase of Hokkaido using farm fresh produce, eat in and take away.

GREENFARMCAFE

09 GINGER | AYA NISEKO

07:00-23:00 (daily)

Opened in 2017, this casual modern bistro with great views of the slopes is certainly a place to go with family and friends. Great breakfasts and coffee, and all-day menus for every palate.

GINGER.RESTAURANT / [0136-55-6293](tel:0136-55-6293)

10 WILD BILL'S NISEKO | UPPER HIRAFU

14:00-02:00 (daily)

Casual restaurant and bar in a warm log house, a long time favourite with international visitors and locals. Brand new menu of Latin-inspired dishes made with the best Hokkaido produce, perfect to be shared. Regular DJ events, quiz nights, bar games and much more!

WILDBILLSNISEKO / [0136-55-5774](tel:0136-55-5774)

11 HALF NOTE BAR CAFE | LOWER HIRAFU

07:00-11:00, 15:00-24:00 (daily)

Niseko's only 'live' jazz bar has a new menu with daily breakfast, dinner/snacks along with great music.

NISEKOHALFNOTE / [0136-23-2727](tel:0136-23-2727)

12 THE CABIN & NIHON GIN BAR | LOWER HIRAFU

15:00-22:00

Get your fill of fantastic steak and kidney pies hand made fresh everyday, as well as some of Niseko's coolest T-shirts at this cool container cafe/bar. The Cabin reopens this season with the new Nihon Gin Bar.

THECABINNISEKO / [0136-55-8794](tel:0136-55-8794)

13 ZEN MASSAGE | BY APPOINTMENT

10:00-22:00 (daily)

Enjoy massages and beauty services in the comfort of your accommodation with Zen Massage home visits.

ZENMASSAGENISEKO.COM / [050-5539-6707](tel:050-5539-6707)

BEYOND HIRAFU CENTRE (OUTSIDE OF MAP)

14 CROSSROADS NISEKO | 343 INTERSECTION

7-Eleven: 24 hours (daily) (open all year)

Get your food, booze and all your daily conveniences, including *juminhyo* services for residents at the new 7-Eleven *konbini*, or dine at the new Steakhouse and Italian restaurant on 2F.

15 LONG TANG CHINESE RESTAURANT | CORNER OF ROUTE 343 & 5

11:00-14:30, 17:30-20:30 (Closed Wed)

Enjoy authentic Shanghai dumplings and more at Long Tang's brand new location.

LONGTANG141002 / [0136-55-5604](tel:0136-55-5604)

16 SOUGA DE MINA | SOGA, NISEKO

11:00-22:00 (daily)

A menu to enjoy using local ingredients. Lunch sets with freshly made pasta.

SOUGADEMINA.COM / [0136-44-2717](tel:0136-44-2717)

17 ZEN YOGA | SOGA, NISEKO

09:30-21:00 (Closed Tues, Wed) (Lessons in Japanese)

New yoga studio near the intersection of Routes 343 and 66 offering classes from Hatha, Zen to Power Yoga.

ZEN.YOGA.STUDIO.NISEKO / [080-9004-9313](tel:080-9004-9313)

18 LUCKYFINGERS | ANNUPURI

12:00-23:00 (daily)

Luckyfingers reopens this season with a new chef. Signature favourites will be available, with added new dishes like King Crab Sautéed in a Sea Urchin Sauce and Aburi Wagyu with Uni.

LUCKYFINGERSNISEKO.COM / [0136-58-3285](tel:0136-58-3285)

19 BIRCH TREE CAFE | ARISHIMA, NISEKO

11:00-19:00 (Closed Mon, 3rd Wed)

Homemade cakes, seasonal lunches and great coffee.

BIRCH_TREE_CAFE / [090-7655-0678](tel:090-7655-0678)

20 HARU BAKERY | NISEKO TOWN

08:00-18:00 (Closed Tues)

Baked in a stone kiln, all baked goods strive to use local ingredients to bring out the most of Niseko's seasonal flavours.

[0136-55-6301](tel:0136-55-6301)

21 ZORBING | EXPLORE ACTIVITIES CENTRE, GINTO VILLAGE

09:00-20:00 (daily) Opens 10 Dec

Zorb in the snow! Only at Explore Niseko Activities Centre.

EXPLORE-NISEKO.COM / [050-5309-6905](tel:050-5309-6905)



REAL ESTATE SALES & PROJECTS

NISEKOPROPERTY.COM / [0136-21-5060](tel:0136-21-5060)



SKIING & SNOWBOARDING FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

BY WHAT'S ON | FEATURE BY INTERNATIONAL SKI SCHOOL

First time? Here is a list of top tips from the experts to help get you started in your new winter mountain sport – from the things to prepare before you conquer the slopes, what gear to buy or rent, to getting the most out of your first ski lesson.

OUR TOP 5 BEGINNER TIPS

1. GET THE RIGHT SIZED EQUIPMENT

Well-fitted equipment are essential, and while it can be tempting to buy the latest and coolest equipment before your first ski experience, it is very possible that you could end up buying inappropriate or poorly sized equipment. Get fitted from the pros to get the right boots and skis/snowboard to give you most out of your first ski experience.

2. KEEP WARM

To stay warm and comfortable you have to wear right amount of clothing, and keep moving. A three-layer strategy works best: – A base layer that's designed to keep you dry, a mid layer that's usually a fleece or wool jumper, and the outer layers (jacket and pants) should be waterproof, windproof, yet breathable. Do NOT wear jeans, or sweatpants. You will be falling down in snow, and even if it is cold enough to be dry snow, some of it will stick to you and melt, and that could be rather unpleasant. Good Gore-Tex gloves and warm socks are essential.

3. TAKE PROFESSIONAL LESSONS

It is always good to start with a proper foundation and learn the correct techniques. Instructors will not only teach you how to ride better, but also take you to the most appropriate slopes to ensure you have a really fun experience. Skiing or snowboarding is easy and fun if you learn it the right way. It's a lot easier than it looks to pick up and progress; and once you have the basics behind you, all you need is mileage and some good encouragement. Once you start, you can't stop!

4. USE THE PRACTICE SLOPES, AND WATCH FOR TRAFFIC

There are easy practice slopes where you could work on your techniques before going onto the more advanced slopes. The practice slopes are gentler and are easier to get up when you fall. Yes, it is ok to fall – we've all been there. Learn the correct techniques to fall safely if you do, and get up as quick as you can, or move out of the way from the traffic. It can be hazardous for yourself and other riders if you stop in the middle of a slope, or when you get off the chair lift, so do keep moving on the slopes and look out for other riders.

5. GO AT YOUR PACE, AND HAVE FUN

How fast you improve will depend on your fitness, and natural ability. For most, the first two days will be tough, but after that you'll really start to get the hang of it. It's important to have good snow conditions your first day. Niseko's fresh, soft and dry powder snow is perfect for beginners. Remember: check your weather channel ahead; go easy at your own pace; and most importantly, have fun!



For more information on our packages, please contact us at info@issjapan.ski or visit our website www.issjapan.ski

RHYS LIDDLE

DIRECTOR | Founder at ISS and Ezo Tourism Services



About Me: I grew up skiing in Mt Hotham, Australia, spending most of my spare weekends during university either skiing or travelling to go skiing. Once I qualified, I decided to pursue my love of the snow and enter the ski industry, and 12 years later, I'm still loving it every day!

For first time skiers/snowboarders: We have a great value package - with half or full day private lesson, lift pass and rental gear. We pick you up from your accommodation, provide lift pass (valid during your lesson) and standard equipment rental*, and our instructors will assist throughout the whole process, then take you on snow!

About ISS - International Snowsports: We have quality instructors, certified mountain guides. Our focus is flexible programs and premium service, for a full concierge experience in Japan's legendary powder.

Multilingual lessons offered: English, Chinese, French, German, Russian & Spanish.

*First timer package rate includes standard rental (skis, boots & poles / snowboard & boots) - surcharge applies for gloves, goggles, clothing

★ THIS ISSUE'S OFFER UNTIL 14 DEC

50% off for locals available for lessons and guiding all season (except Christmas and CNY peak dates). Resident's card required. Contact us by email until 14 Dec to register for this offer: info@issjapan.ski

*conditions apply

EARLY SEASON DISCOUNT
 NISS SNOWBOARDER GROUP LESSONS **10% OFF!**
 Dec 1 - Dec 15, 2018

We look forward to welcoming you at NISS and HANAZONO Niseko.
WWW.HANAZONONISEKO.COM
 0136-21-6688

26 NOV - 09 DEC / AN DELI ✕
AN DELI: 50% OFF COFFEE!
 FROM 26 NOV - 09 DEC
 Celebrate the start of the winter season with 50% off all coffees at An Deli, Niseko Landmark View! Flat White / Caffe Latte / Cappuccino: ¥450 > ¥225; Hot Chocolate: ¥650 > ¥325!

☎ 0136-22-2722 / 📍 ANDELILMV
 ☕ ANDELICOFFEE

01 DEC / HALF NOTE ★ 🇵🇵
HALF NOTE: OPENING DAY!
 AT HALF NOTE BAR, FROM 18:00-LATE
 Join us in welcoming new season with our infamous opening night. Locals prices all night, live music, great food.

📍 NISEKOHALFNOTE / 📱 NISEKOHALFNOTE

01-03 DEC / NEXT STAGE SNOW SPORTS ❄️
NEXT STAGE: SNOWBOARD LEVEL 3 TRAINING SPECIAL
 WITH NEXT STAGE SNOWSPORTS
 All certified Level 2 instructors welcome. Get yourself stoked before the busy holiday season. ¥7,000/day or ¥20,000 for three days.

📍 NEXTSTAGESNOWSPORTS.COM
 📱 NEXTSTAGESNOWSPORTS

01-14 DEC / POWDER YOGA 🧘
EARLY SEASON UNLIMITED PASS SALE 01-14 DEC
 POWDER YOGA'S FULL SEASON PASS ON SALE NOW!
 Join us for unlimited yoga, pilates, and fitness classes until 31 Mar. 10% discount (until 14 Dec).

📍 POWDERYOGA.COM / 📱 POWDER YOGA NISEKO
 📧 HELLO@POWDERYOGA.COM

01-14 DEC / NISEKO TAPROOM 🍷
WHAT'S ON BEER COMBO!
 AT TAPROOM, FROM 17:00-22:00
 Order the 'What's On Combo'; 2 standard beers, quarter chicken and fries for just ¥2,000!

📍 NISEKOTAPROOM.COM / ☎ 050-5316-9488

01-15 DEC / ZEN MASSAGE 🧘
OPENING PROMOTION
 WITH ZEN MASSAGE
 40% off the full menu for locals. ID required, see website for conditions.

📍 ZENMASSAGENISEKO.COM / ☎ 050-5539-6707

07 & 14 DEC / MUSU ✕ 🇵🇵
MUSU: MUSIC BY PRIMAT
 AT MUSU, FROM 21:00 TILL LATE
 Celebrate your Friday in a great atmosphere!

📍 MUSUNISEKO.COM / ☎ 0136-21-7002
 📱 MUSUNISEKO

08-09/13-14 DEC / RISING SUN GUIDES ❄️
AVALANCHE COURSES
 WITH RISING SUN GUIDES
 Learn about safety backcountry travel, terrain recognition and the effect of weather on the snowpack to set yourself up for a great winter of touring.

📍 RISINGSUNGUIDES.COM / ☎ 050-5317-2215
 📱 RISINGSUNGUIDES

14-16 DEC / HOKKAIDO SKI CLUB ❄️
HOKKAIDO SKI CLUB: BEYOND THE NISEKO BOUNDARY VOL.2
 IN THE SNOW, 08:00-13:00
 Led by UIAGM guide, the 3-day event will equip you with the knowledge you need to safely enjoy Niseko backcountry. Sign up now, limited spots!

📍 HSKICLUB.COM / ☎ 080-9576-4381
 📱 HOKKAIDOSKICLUB

THE BLACKBOARD
 BY EXPLORE NISEKO
 01 - 13 DEC 2018

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SNOWMOBILING
 FROM ¥12,500 PP

PRIVATE SKI/
 SNOWBOARD LESSON
 FROM ¥ 45,000 PP

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- BEST BAR
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- BEST NEWCOMER

THE BEST OF NISEKO AWARDS 2019
ONLINE VOTING STARTS
15 DECEMBER

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WHAT'S ON IN NISEKO
BARS AND RESTAURANTS

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NISEKO'S AREA-WIDE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
PRESENTED BY NISEKO TOURISM

VISIT #NISEKOSHOUTOUT FOR CONTEST INFO AND UPDATES

powderlife




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