

What's New?

Niihama City

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My Heart is Drenched in Wine

Giovanni Madonna

The process would always begin in fall. Stuffed in the backseat of the truck, I would gaze out at the early morning haze with half-opened eyes. Dad would be playing one of his CDs, if he was feeling merciful it would be someone soft like Norah Jones.

When we pulled into the market most of the vendors were still setting up their tables and laying out their produce. Apples could be seen everywhere beside pumpkins, homemade maple syrup, and a lot corn. But our target on these days was always the shabby looking warehouses that stood just next door. Dad would call out to Rocco, an acquaintance from his childhood neighborhood, as soon as he saw him. They'd pat each other's backs, exchange some words in Italian, ask about the family.

My brother and I would stand off to the side, feeling small next to the giant stacks of wooden crates that filled the normally barren space. Between the gaps in the paper thin boards you could see the grapes. A few of the grapes must have been broken during transport because the sweet scent of decay almost knocked you out as soon as you walked in. And of course there were the bees, an army hundreds strong crawling in and out of the boxes seeking out sweetness.

After a talk that always felt far too long to me, Dad would get our crates, load them into the trunk with Rocco and some of his guys, and then we'd be stuff back into the car. The next part of the process didn't take too much time, but it was without a doubt the most annoying in my opinion.

When I was younger I never really understood why my family makes wine. I wondered why my dad and a friend would sit outside in the shed out back at close to four in the morning. But that might have more to do with our grape press. It was very old, mostly made of wood aside from the clunky metal parts that did the actual pressing. You had to turn a crank by hand to

move the press, so after a while the grapes would become so dense that a single person wasn't enough for the job.

From there the juice would be mixed with sugars and other things to help the process along and then sealed within either a large jug or a wooden barrel. After that it was a matter of time. Dad would occasionally go down to check the pressure, make sure the seal over the wine had held and no excess oxygen would enter and ruin the batch.

When months had passed, it would finally be time for the wine to be ready. While it's true that wine typically gets better with age, a batch of my family's wine usually not got more than a year old. That isn't to say it was bad wine. Quite the opposite really. If my family had any kind of party, which they do often, our family wine would be brought along without question. It made lips looser, laughs louder, and children calmer.

But you might think, wouldn't any wine have done? It's not really cost effective. As a single father, Dad had enough going on between his job and my brother and I. But he never stopped making the family wine. He probably could never forgive himself if he did.

Likening wine to blood is cliché, but I can't find a better way to explain this. To my family, wine is one of their remaining connections back to Italy. To them the sweet stench of grapes, the greasy hinges of the press, the way the wine sparkled a deep crimson. It brought them back home.

And now that I'm here in Japan, I feel like I have learned this lesson all over again. When I come home from a day of work I'm exhausted more often than not. I try not to think of how cold and empty my apartment feels without my brother and my dad. So I keep a bottle of wine at home. It's not the same, but it makes me think of those early mornings at the market. It brings me back to my aunt's house on a Sunday afternoon, where the family has gathered for dinner. It's pure chaos and everyone is arguing about nonsense. But I can't help but smile.

It's my home, after all.



Hello, everyone! My name is Giovanni Madonna. I'm from New York State in America. I'm currently working as a junior high school English teacher. I have liked reading and writing since I was a child. I hope you enjoyed my essay! My Heart is Drenched in Wine

Wedding party on the tourism train

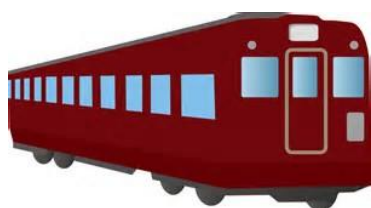
(from Ehime Shimbun August 26, 2017)

A woman named Ms. Emiri Tomita, who works as an attendant of “Iyonada Monogatari”, the tourism train of JR Shikoku, held her wedding party on the train inviting colleagues on August 25.

This was the third wedding party on “Iyonada Monogatari”. JR Shikoku promotes the car chartering operation on week days, and Ms. Emiri had participated in these events twice as a planner and attendant. Consequently, she decided to hold her own wedding party on the train, with the idea that the bridegroom and party guests should enjoy the scenery which she sees every time.

The train left JR Matsuyama Station with 40 passengers. They participated in a nonreligious wedding ceremony at Shimonada Station. Chirashizushi was cut aboard the train, in place of a cake cutting ceremony. On the way to Iyo-Ohzu Station, the newly married couple waved through a window at the local people, who welcomed them with flags and crackers.

According to JR Shikoku, the car chartering fee is ¥189,000 (including tax).



Information in English & Chinese on the Web

***What's New?**

***How to sort garbage and trash**

Visit  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

J-ALERT

(From the monthly City News, Shisei Dayori, November 2017)

If a ballistic missile is launched by North Korea to Japan, it will reach here in a short time. In such a case the government will transmit emergency information through J-ALERT (the nationwide warning system in Japan) through devices such as a special siren, a message and emergency mail.

Don't panic and behave calmly.



- Outdoors: Take shelter in a sturdy building or basement.
- With no building around you: Take cover or lie down on the ground and protect your head.
- Indoors: Stay away from the windows or move into a room with no windows.

For further information, please check the National Protection portal site: <http://www.kokuminhogo.go.jp/>

TEL: 0897-65-1282 Bosai-Anzen Section, City Office



SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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The editors for this month are M.Hada & E.Okada

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

October 21 ~	American Made	2D English
October 27 ~	Blade Runner 2049 (PG12)	2D English
November 3 ~	THOR: RAGNAROK	2D English / 2D Dubbed
November 3 ~	It (R15+)	2D English
November 11 ~	JIGSAW (R15+)	2D English
November 18 ~	Logan Lucky	2D English
November 23 ~	JUSTICELEAGUE	2D English
December 8 ~	Murder on the Orient Express	2D English
December 15 ~	Star Wars The Last Jedi	2D English
December 22 ~	Kung-Fu Yoga	2D Chinese

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

December Events

* Illumination

Minetopia Besshi is beautifully lit up in this season.

11/1(Wed)-2/28(Wed)

17:00-22:00

Tel:43-1801



* The 41st Niihama Agriculture Festival

Sale & display of agricultural products, livestock products and handmade articles at Aeon Mall Niihama.

12/3(Sun)

9:00-15:00

Tel:37-1004(JA Niihama City)

* Cu Café at Akagane Museum

“Teach me about !Malaysia!”

12/15(Fri)

18:30~

Admission:Free

Tel:31-0305



ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな“ちょっと” No.2

(カフェで) (kafe de) (At a cafe)

A : わあ、そのケーキ、おいしそう！ちょっと ちょうだい。

Wa, sono kēki, oishisō! Chotto chōdai.

(Wow! That cake looks delicious! Please give me a little.)

B : いいよ。じゃ、わたしもちょっと もらっていい？

Ii yo. Ja, watashi mo chotto moratte ii?

(Sure. OK, can I have a bit of it, too?)

A : 一口だけね。ちょっと一、取りすぎだよ。

Hitokuchi dake ne. Chottō, torisugi da yo.

(Only one bite! Wait! You're taking too much!)

(忘年会で) (bōnenkai de) (At a year-end party)

A : そんなに 飲んで、大丈夫？ Sonna ni nonde, daijōbu?

(Are you alright drinking so much?)

B : 大丈夫、大丈夫。すみませーん、生中 ひとつ お願いしまーす。

Daijōbu, daijōbu. Sumimasēn, namachū hitotsu onegaishimāsu.

(I'm OK, I'm OK. Excuse me. One medium draft beer, please.)

A : ちょっと ちょっと、飲み過ぎじゃない？

Chotto, chotto, nomisugi ja nai?

(Wait, wait! Aren't you drinking too much?)

A : こんばんは。今から お出かけですか。

Konbanwa. Imakara odekake desu ka.

(Good evening. Are you going out now?)

B : ええ、ちょっと マイントピアまで。

Ee, chotto maintopia made.

(Yes, I'm going to Minetopia.)

イルミネーションを 見に 行くんです。

Iruminēshon o mini ikun desu.

(I'm going to see the illumination.)

A : いいですね。 Ii desu ne. (That's great.)

今治の タオル美術館の “光のトンネル” も 素敵ですよ。

Imabari no taoru bijutsukan no “hikari no tonneru” mo suteki desu

yo.

(The “Light Tunnel” of Imabari's Towel Museum is also terrific.)

B : そうですね。ちょっと 遠いけど、今度 行ってみようかな。

Sō desu ka. Chotto tōi kedo, kondo itte miyō ka na.

(Really? It's a bit far, but I'll try going there next time.)



< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

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