

REBOOT

ZEN GARDEN

A historic Tokyo hotel gets a 21st-century face-lift without losing its Meiji charms and sacred sakura-strewn gardens. By Ashley Niedringhaus

Set in the previous residence of one of Japan's former prime ministers, Aritomo Yamagata, the 260-room **Hotel Chinzanso** has just emerged top-to-toe renovation. The architects stayed faithful to the building's heritage roots, while adding a host of five-star upgrades geared towards well-heeled travelers. The place sports no fewer than 12 restaurants and the city's largest hotel spa, but the real highlight is the immaculately groomed garden—a true haven right in the heart of Tokyo. hotel-chinzanso-tokyo.com; doubles from ¥48,000. +



Expect exceptionally elegant Eastern and Western table settings—and teas.

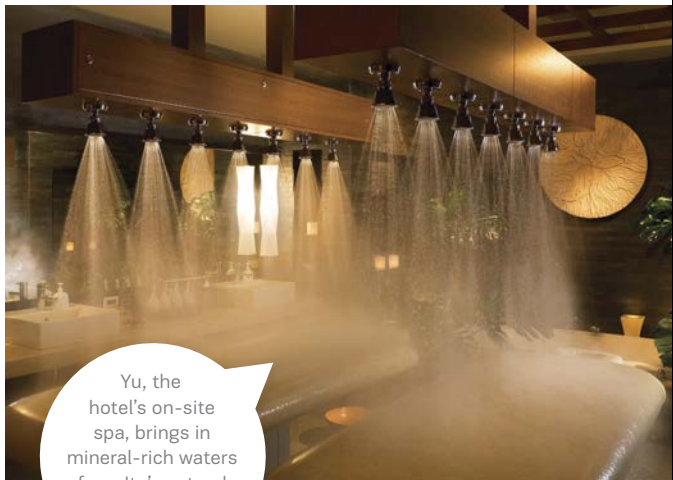
Glazed Arita ceramic lamps, Nishijin-ori throws and silk-screen paintings adorn each of the stylishly minimalist room.



The hotel offers tea ceremonies with a master, as well as kimono fittings.



Chinzanso Garden has 20 distinct varieties of cherry-blossom trees and a 1,000-year-old pagoda built without nails.



Yu, the hotel's on-site spa, brings in mineral-rich waters from Ito's natural hot springs in Shizuoka.

COURTESY OF HOTEL CHINZANSO (6)