



< Takashi Watanuki >

Country/Region : Bangkok, Thailand

Age : 71 years old

Current Position : Second owner of Japanese Restaurant HANAYA
Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador

○Significantly contributing to popularizing Japanese cuisine and food culture over many years

- Works to offer Japanese tastes, introduces and spreads new ingredients from Japan to the Thai market, and is dedicated to expanding recognition of Japanese cuisine to members of the royal family, corporate executives, and government officials.
- 1973: Relocated to Thailand, started to work as a chef at HANAYA.
- Circa 1980: Charged with managing the restaurant as the second owner in addition to cuisine.
- 2021: Appointed Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador.
- 2022: Stands alongside third generation Yoshio Watanuki as chef at HANAYA, in its 83rd year since being established.

Takashi Watanuki moved to Thailand in 1973 and has contributed to improving the recognition level of Japanese cuisine and food culture in Thailand as a chef for almost half a century. HANAYA, which he manages as the second owner, is among the top well-established Japanese cuisine restaurants in Thailand. It is so famous there is likely no one in the Japanese food business who has not heard of it.

While preserving the traditional taste of Japan, the restaurant's menu shows passion for incorporating new Japanese ingredients, even adding items that have just started being recognized in Japan. He introduces them to Thai guests in person and on social media, contributing to expanding imports of Japanese native ingredients and to popularizing them overseas.

In addition, there are many Thai chefs who were apprentices at HANAYA and are active as Japanese cuisine chefs, making the restaurant an establishment that strives to convey and hand down Japanese cuisine and food culture to the next generation.

HANAYA also caters to functions by the Thai royal family as well as to dinners and other affairs of the Japanese and Thai governments, contributing to the spread of Japanese cuisine to members of the Thai royal family as well as corporate executives and government officials.