

## Izushi Ware

Izushi ware (Izushi-yaki), the distinctive type of porcelain rooted in the Izushi area, is characterized by its pure and bright white color. It is made from *kakitani* pottery stone, a kaolin clay revered for porcelain's signature, pristine white and for the smooth, silky finish that allows potters to add their own special touches before their work is fired.

Izushi-yaki started in 1784 when potter Izuya Yazaemon began producing stoneware, but it wasn't until 1793 that he shifted his focus to the white porcelain we know today. The techniques for this durable, white porcelain were brought from Saga Prefecture, which is known for its flourishing Arita ware porcelain. Visitors can find Izushi ware crafted by local artisans at retail and gift shops around the castle town of Izushi. Items range from plates used for Izushi *sara soba*, bowls and cups to more ornamental pieces like vases and *furin* (wind chimes).