

Charoku Inn

Charoku is an inn that first opened in the castle town of Miyazu in 1716. It primarily lodged guests who had traveled to the area to receive cargo from the *kitamaebune* trading ships that docked at the nearby port. Many of its guests were traveling on business, so the rooms are relatively small, but a historic ambiance emanates from the architecture and furnishings.

The current building is a treasured example of three-story wooden architecture from the Taisho era (1912–1926). It was designated a Tangible Cultural Property of Japan in 2010. The latticework and wooden screens of the facade represent traditions of woodworking that have arguably been lost with previous generations of craftsmen. Tatami flooring, alcoves, transoms, hanging scrolls, and fresh flowers enhance the elegance of the modest traditional-style guest rooms. A prized work of calligraphy by the distinguished navy commander Togo Heihachiro (1848–1934) hangs on the second floor.

Guests may enjoy bathing in the natural hot spring (*onsen*) during their stay. The regional seafood specialty is *huri shabu*, a hotpot of Japanese amberjack (also known as yellowtail), served at the inn during the winter season.