

Café and Coffee Shop Tours in Kyoto #5

The Iwakura district in Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, is an affluent residential area that hosts the Kyoto International Conference Center. For nearly half a century, Coffee Restaurant Dorf has been the go-to spot for locals and visitors who fancy a nice meal or a cup of coffee. Still beloved today, Dorf continues attract attention as a neighborhood favorite.

* Prices in this article include tax



The Hamburg and Fried Shrimp lunch (1,500 yen) is the most popular lunch menu. The rich, juicy meat pairs perfectly with the special demi-glace sauce.

When you open the wooden front doors, you enter a space reminiscent of a German villa, with inviting places throughout to relax over a cup of coffee or tea. Take a seat on the south terrace near the zelkova tree, the shop's symbol, and savor the elegant High Tea set. In winter, settle into the warm ambience of the wooden floors and antique furniture with a special house-blended coffee, while listening to the crackle of the fireplace.

Drawn to this charming, rustic space, locals and visitors alike love to spend relaxed, leisurely moments at Dorf. Since lunchtime queues are quite common, it may be easier to find a table in the evening.

The café is owned by Dorf Homes, a local real estate and architecture business, and the shared name "Dorf" means "village" in German. Kenichi Kubota, the firm's CEO, the founder's son, and a certified Class 1 Architect, recalls, "My father used to take me to construction sites when I was small."

The founder first worked in women's

fashion at a traditional department store. Then, sensing the potential of the real estate industry, he started his own company. When he purchased land in the Iwakura district (where Dorf now stands), he foresaw a bright future for the district and decided to keep the property rather than sell it. Having worked in clothing and housing, he turned to the remaining essential of daily life: food, and opened the café and restaurant.

Kenichi reminisced about his father's love for architecture and interior design. "He traveled overseas to collaborate with his business partner, who was also a painter, and to purchase furnishings and decorative items. This restaurant was the result of his total creative direction." In 1979, Dorf opened its doors.

Kenichi later visited Germany during business trips, and says the homes he saw in Germany reminded him of his father's café, and he attributes this to a powerful authenticity only real estate experts can create.

One of Dorf's specialties is its cold brew coffee, available hot or iced (650 yen). Slowly extracted over time, it has a clean, refreshing taste without excessive bitterness. The Dorf Special Coffee, generously topped with

whipped cream nearly overflowing the cup is 850 yen. Popular desserts include High Tea, comprising scones and fruit sandwiches (1,150 yen, available from 11 a.m.), the Fruit Parfait (1,300 yen), and the Chocolate Parfait (1,100 yen). In summer, limited-time frappés are also available.

Dorf also offers hearty meals, including popular lunch items like the Hamburg and Fried Shrimp lunch (1,500) and the Beef Stew lunch (1,600). Both come with rice, salad, and a drink (house-blend coffee, tea, etc.). Lunch is available 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., except on

Sundays and holidays. Café items are served throughout the day, and dinner reservations can be made by phone.

With the hope that the Iwakura area will become an "even more charming village", Dorf actively participates in community activities, such as local "Marche" events, where coffee and scones warm visitors' hearts and palates. The café

has also introduced a new logo, now featured on its coffee cups. Preserving its cherished traditions while embracing a more refined, modern atmosphere, Dorf offers an even richer experience than before.



High Tea (1,150 yen) is a luxury set that comes with freshly baked scones and fruit sandwiches. For 1,500 yen, you can add a drink such as house-blend coffee.



Coffee Restaurant Dorf

4 Iwakura Higashigota-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto City

TEL: 075-722-2367

Website: <https://dorf-web.net/coffeorestaurantdorf/>

- Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (last order: 7:00 p.m.)
- Closed: Wednesdays, year-end/new year holidays, and summer holidays
- Parking: Spacious parking lot
- Approx. 4-minute walk from Kokusai Kaikan Station, Kyoto Municipal Subway

