SAKE • **RICE** • **SOIL** • **WATER** • **TREE** Never cut down trees. This is what I had learned from my grandfather. We have a family motto that has been passed down over 55 generations: "SAKE, RICE, SOIL,

WATER, TREE." These five interact with each other: good sake is made from good rice; good rice grows in good soil; farm soil contains good water; and good water comes from good trees. By protecting trees, our brewery protects our sake. Our brewery is located in the area called Obara which was one of the original settlements of Ibaraki Prefecture. Even today, the embankment of a castle from the Heian Era still remains in Obara.

We brew sake with respect to nature, appreciating the changing of seasons and natural circulation system every day. The tall trees that change their faces in every season behind the buildings give you a warm welcome when you come through the gate of the brewery. The neighbors often call us "the brewery in the grove" due to lush keyaki (zelkova) trees surrounding our brewery.

The origin of our brewery is a bit different from others. Originally we were members of the samurai class. Sake brewing began after the economy came to be based on rice, and the local economies stabilized. Sake brewing was a by-product of the main product: rice.

We only brew Junmai Daiginjo sake with the rice no longer than five months after being harvested from local rice fields. Thankfully, our sake have been highly rated and receive good reputation not only in Japan, but also outside of Japan; we were awarded several prizes at the International Wine Challenge held in London; sommeliers including world champing sommeliers highly rated our sake. Also Robert Parker, an internationally well-known connoisseur, rated our sake as 91 points out of 100 points. In 2014, our sake, KAKUNKO, was chosen to be served at distinguished guests at the Prime Minister's official residence. Moreover, in 2016, KAKUNKO was served for the guests of Partner's Program of G7 ISSE-SHIMA SUMMIT. It is rare for the breweries outside of the host prefecture to be used, yet out KAKUNKO was selected as one of the must-items on the menu to be served.



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tree

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