## NEWS RELEASE



June, 2023

# Six LGBTQ+-themed Cocktails in Celebration of Pride Month June 2023, Championing Diversity and Inclusivity with the Expertise of Award-Winning bartender

TOKYO - <u>Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo</u> (KPH), one of Japan's most prestigious international hotels located in Shinjuku, Tokyo, excited to unveil its latest offering in celebration of Pride Month 2023. The hotel is proud to launch six new cocktails that embody its unwavering commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive society for all.



Available from May 29 to July 31, 2023 at the Main Bar, Brillant on the second floor of the South Tower, the cocktails feature a colorful rainbow flag motif, with each hue representing a unique meaning.

Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo has long been dedicated to creating a welcoming plaza for people of all nationalities, races, and beliefs. This unwavering Plaza Philosophy has been ingrained since our inception, and it resonates with the surrounding Shinjuku community, which has a rich history of embracing LGBTQ+ culture and values. The new cocktail offerings are a perfect way for the hotel to showcase its commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

These cocktails were meticulously created by renowned bartender Kazuya Watanabe, who is best known for producing the legendary, perennial favorite cocktail 'Celebration'. In 2021, he was awarded the Ojuhosho (Medal with Yellow Ribbon) for his long-term contribution to the hospitality industry. The cocktails are intended to raise awareness and encourage those who are not familiar with the LGBTQ+ community to experience the spirit of inclusivity at Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo.

#### Plaza Pride Cocktail

Date: May 31 (Wednesday) to July 31 (Monday), 2023

Venue: Main Bar "Brilliant", 2nd Floor

Price: JPY1,900 each (Includes service charges and taxes)

#### > Message behind each cocktail

The rainbow flag is a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride and its social movements.

Each of its six colors holds a special meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for nature, blue for harmony, and purple for spirit. To honor these values, Keio Plaza Hotel has created six signature cocktails, each with its own unique message.



Celebration (Red = Life)

Raise a glass to life's milestones with the Celebration cocktail. Made with champagne and raspberry liqueur, this elegant drink adds a touch of glamour and sweetness to your celebration.

Botanical Healing (Orange = Healing)

The Botanical Healing cocktail combines the traditional flavor of gin with the soothing scents of lavender and elderflower. Sip on this floral drink and feel its healing powers.

Solare (Yellow = Sun)

Feel as though you are basking in the warm glow of the sun with the Solare cocktail. Its bright yellow color comes from turmeric and amaretto cream liqueur, adding to the rich flavor and aroma of TUMUGI, a spirit derived from koji (rice malt).

Nature Green (Green = Nature)

Imagine you are stepping into a lush green forest with the Nature Green cocktail. Made with Café Vodka, cypress and cedar-flavored gin, and bitters, this drink is a perfect blend of nature's richness.

Blue Concerto (Blue = Harmony)

Find harmony in the Blue Concerto cocktail, which blends five distinct world whiskies with sourness and sweetness. Its blue hue, from the "Ao" whiskey base, is a visual treat.

Purple Soul (Purple = Spirit)

Sake, Kyoho grape liqueur, and yuzu citrus come together in the Purple Soul cocktail, creating a delightful purple drink that embodies the spirit of its brewer.

#### > Profile of Kazuya Watanabe

Executive Advisor to the F&B and Banquet Department of Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo Professional Experience

2021-present Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo, Executive Advisor

2016 Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo, Director of Food & Beverage Department

1979 Joined Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo

Awards and Honors

2012 Ojuhosho (Medal with Yellow Ribbon)

2011 Contemorary Master Craftsman Award

2005 Tokyo Metropolitan Superior Technician Governor Prize "Tokyo Meister"

1986 Winner, HBA Original Cocktail Competition

1985 Runner-up, HBA Original Cocktail Competition

1984 Grand Prix, Suntory the Cocktail Award '84

Professional Associations & Titles

Present Honorary Senior Advisor, Japan Hotel Association

2012"Chevalier", Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne

2006 Selected as the youngest president, Japan Hotel Association

### About the Keio Plaza Hotel

Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo (KPH), located in Shinjuku at the very heart of the nation's capital Tokyo, is one of Japan's leading international hotels. Our hotel boasts of over 15 restaurants and bars, and we host a wide range of local and international guests who visit us for our welcoming facilities, warm hospitality and unique services that allow them to experience Japanese culture, including our wedding kimono experience, tea ceremony and many others. For more information about our facilities and services, please visit our website, YouTube, Facebook or Instagram.

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