

MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Howdy, everyone! This month, I'd like to introduce my top three favorite restaurants since moving to Maebashi.

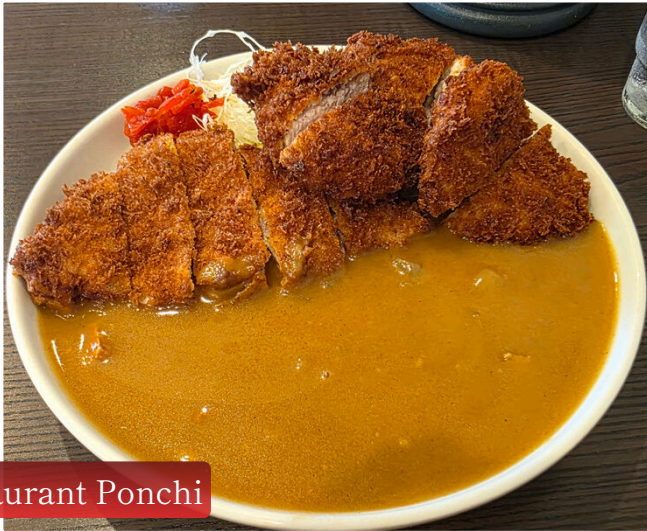
It's now been almost five months since I started working at Maebashi City Hall. Time has flown by, but during that period I've had the chance to visit many different eateries around Maebashi.

Among them, I'd like to share the restaurants that left the strongest impression on me so far.

No. 3 – Kando: Located about a four-minute walk from Maebashi City Hall, this long-established diner is well-known within the city. Its signature dish is magucha-don, a bowl of rice topped with soy-marinated tuna. They also offer classic diner staples like katsudon and oyakodon, all reasonably priced and delicious. I go about once a week, and no matter when I visit, they always serve consistently high-quality meals.



Kando



Restaurant Ponchi

No. 2 – Restaurant Ponchi: If I had to name my favorite Japanese dish, katsu curry would definitely be at the top of the list. I've tried many different katsu curries all across Japan, but the one at Restaurant Ponchi has to be among the tastiest. The rich, flavorful curry paired with the tender, juicy cutlet is such an unforgettable combination that just thinking about it makes me want to go back right now.

In addition, for those competitive eaters out there who aren't satisfied with a standard-sized katsu curry, there's a menu option called the "Yokubari Curry." It truly lives up to the word "Yokubari" (meaning avaricious), as on one plate, you can enjoy not only the standard curry roux, but also hayashi rice and two different types of meat all at once.



Grassa

No. 1 – Grassa: Located in the Chuo-dori shopping arcade, Grassa is a restaurant specializing in "hand-crafted pasta." This is a branch of the original restaurant in Portland, Oregon, so the dishes have a touch of American character to them. However, they are carefully prepared using plenty of local ingredients, offering a level of freshness and flavor that even Italians—who are particular about authenticity—would approve of.

When I first moved to Maebashi, my predecessor highly recommended Grassa, so it was one of the first restaurants I visited. It exceeded every expectation. The fragrant and rich autumn pumpkin soup, the roasted pork belly pasta, and the macaroni and cheese with BBQ pork belly that's so good it could bring you to tears; no matter what you order, it's guaranteed to bring you joy.

In addition to their regular menu, the pastas, appetizers, and desserts change depending on the season or even the day, so each visit offers the chance to discover something new. If you haven't yet experienced how wonderful Grassa is, I highly recommend stopping by the next time you're unsure where to eat out.

Maebashi has many restaurants that are every bit as good as the famous establishments in the big cities of Tokyo or Osaka, so in truth, choosing just these three was quite difficult. I plan to keep enjoying the great food the city has to offer, so this list isn't final and will continue to evolve as I try more of what this city has to offer.

If any of the places I introduced caught your interest even a little, I hope you'll give them a visit!