

September (長月: Nagatsuki) Menu

August 16 – September 15, 2026

September is traditionally known in Japan as Nagatsuki (長月), the name given to the ninth month in the old Japanese lunar calendar. This month brings with it two time-honored traditions that have long held a special place in Japanese culture.

The first is Chōyō no Sekku (重陽の節句), the Chrysanthemum Festival, celebrated on the ninth day of the ninth month. Since ancient times, odd numbers have been regarded as auspicious *yang* numbers. Among them, nine is the highest single-digit odd number, and the day on which two nines come together was therefore considered one of the most auspicious days of the year. As this is also the season when chrysanthemums bloom in all their splendor, the occasion is known as the Chrysanthemum Festival. Admiring the flower's beauty and remarkable vitality, people traditionally pray for good health and longevity.

The other cherished tradition is Chūshū no Meigetsu (中秋の名月), the Harvest Moon, shining brilliantly in the clear autumn night sky. Beneath the radiant full moon, people give thanks for the season's abundant harvest, offering *Susuki* pampas grass and *Tsukimi Dango*, rice dumplings, while enjoying sake, poetry, and the quiet beauty of the evening.

This month at Ranzan, we welcome you with dishes thoughtfully crafted to soothe summer's lingering fatigue, featuring the refreshing acidity of lemon and *Ume* vinegar. Our seasonal offerings also celebrate nature's bounty with returning bonito, Pacific saury, an array of mushrooms, figs, and pomegranates, as well as traditional *Tsukimi Dango*. Each dish is carefully prepared to capture nature's rich flavors and beauty.

As the evenings grow longer, we invite you to spend a leisurely autumn night at Ranzan with someone dear to you.



Owner of Ranzan