

Letters to the Editor

Dear SFM,

Interesting July issue, especially the look inside Harumafuji's heya. Hope to visit there sometime.

My main reason for writing is: do you know of any sumo-themed restaurants in the Ryogoku area? I live in Saitama, but I have tickets to go to the basho in September and am looking for somewhere authentic to eat. I've heard that there is a famous restaurant called Chanko Waka, which is run by a former sumo champion, but I cannot find one in Ryogoku. I've heard that chanko is really filling and I absolutely want to try some. Any ideas?

Regards,
Danny Filson, Saitama

Dear Danny,

Thanks for your kind comments about SFM 25. As for sumo restaurants, there are three very close to Ryogoku station, just a few minutes' walk from the Kokugikan.

One is part of a chain called Hana no Mai, and has a lifesize dohyo in the middle of the dining area. The entrance is also packed with sumo memorabilia; many great souvenirs can be found within, including keyrings, handkerchiefs, ceramics and sumo wrestler handprints.

The other, just across the road, is called Chanko Kirishima, and is owned by the ex-ozeki Kirishima Kazuhiro, whose stable is located next door. The man himself sometimes makes guest

appearances in the restaurant, especially during tournaments. Prices are a little high, but the food is of very good quality.

The third restaurant is owned by yokozuna Asashoryu, and is reported to serve reasonable food – if not spectacular food.

There are many sumo-themed restaurants in and around Tokyo, many of which are run by existing or ex-sumo wrestlers. Alas, there is no Chanko Waka in Ryogoku, but there is a decent one in Ginza (again a little pricey), with some of his memorabilia on display around the tables.

Hope this helps. Happy eating!
All the best,

Chris Gould, Editor
[Sumo Fan Magazine](#)