

Benesse Art Site Naoshima Benesse House Selected as a Nominee for the Inaugural Michelin Architecture & Design Awards



Benesse House, located on Naoshima Island in Kagawa Prefecture and part of the Benesse Art Site Naoshima, has been selected as a nominee for the Michelin Architecture & Design Awards, hosted by Michelin.

This prestigious award honors hotels around the world that exemplify outstanding architecture and design. Among the five hotels nominated globally, Benesse House is the only nominee from Japan. The award ceremony will take place on October 8, 2025, at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, where Michelin will announce the winning hotel and also present the 2025 Michelin Keys, recognizing the most exceptional and inspiring hotels of the year.

Nominees for the 1st Michelin Architecture & Design Awards:

- Atlantis The Royal (Dubai)
- Shebara Resort (Saudi Arabia)
- Rosewood São Paulo (Brazil)
- Benesse House (Japan)
- Villa Nai 3.3 (Croatia)

(Source: Michelin Guide Official Website)

Media contact

Benesse Art Site Naoshima PR division Stenlund-Maeda
Email: BASN-press@mail.benesse.co.jp Tel: +81 87-892-2887

Comment from Michelin Official Website:

The revolutionary design concept behind Benesse House was created in 1992 by Tadao Ando, Pritzker Prize winner and among the most celebrated Japanese architects alive. Merging gallery spaces and guest quarters to create an unprecedented museum-hotel hybrid — on Naoshima, one of several islands in Japan's Inland Sea — are four wings with distinct architectural characteristics, attractions and guest rooms. The minimalist concrete form of "Museum" is partially embedded into the coastal landscape; "Oval" features an open-air reflecting pool encircled by a sun-drenched portico; "Park" — among the rare Ando buildings here to incorporate wood — blurs the line between inside and outside; and "Beach", with sightlines aligned with the sea's surface, creates the impression of a floating structure.

Dominated by minimalism and geometric simplicity, each of the 65 guest rooms spread between the buildings is spacious, defined by elements like understated furnishings and floor-to-ceiling windows that intentionally frame views of the sea, gardens and the distant Shikoku Mountains.

<https://guide.michelin.com/mo/en/article/travel/best-architecture-design-hotels-michelin-award-2025>

(Quoted from the MICHELIN Guide official website)

About Benesse House

Opened at Benesse Art Site Naoshima in 1992, Benesse House is both a museum and a hotel, incorporating guest rooms and space for display of contemporary art.

Benesse House offers guests opportunities to get close to great art and spend a uniquely rewarding time in dialogue with the works and with themselves.

About Benesse Art Site Naoshima

"Benesse Art Site Naoshima" is the collective name for all art-related activities conducted by Benesse Holdings, Inc. and Fukutake Foundation on the islands of Naoshima and Teshima in Kagawa Prefecture and on Inujima island in Okayama Prefecture. Our fundamental aim is to create significant spaces by bringing contemporary art and architecture in resonance with the pristine nature of the Seto Inland Sea, a landscape with a rich cultural and historical fabric. Through contacts with art and nature, sceneries and inhabitants of the Seto Inland Sea region, we seek to inspire visitors to reflect on the meaning of Benesse's motto - Well-Being. In all our ongoing activities, we are committed to foster a relationship of mutual growth between art and the region, aiming to make a positive contribution to the local communities.

Media contact