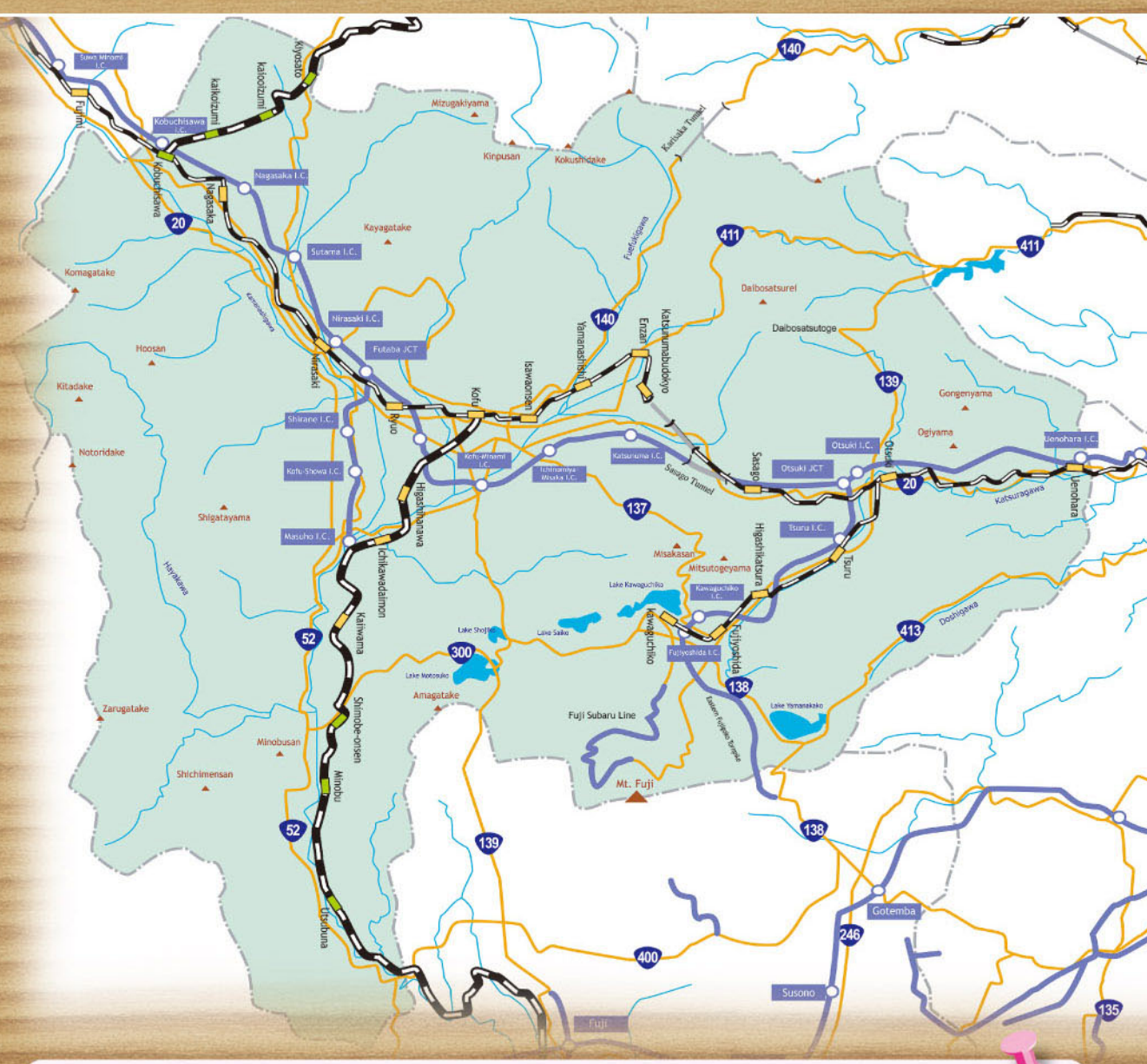


From the editor's notebook:

Last edition, the Grapevine staff took its readers on a trip along the Yamanashi stretch of the JR Chuo Line. Continuing our train journey series, we split off into two groups, exploring the Minobu Line which runs south into Shizuoka, and the Koumi Line which services the northwest area, winding through the mountains straight into Nagano. The two regions are geographically and culturally distinct, both in mood and architecture. However, it still stands that the beauty of Yamanashi resides in its unique ambiance: artifacts of the East and West merge and transform into new products, while modern themes intersect with classic traditions. Perfect for the seasoned traveler who seeks to diverge from the beaten path.

Jenka Eusebio & Mandy J.M. Lin



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