



# Special Café Report

[Jenka Eusebio]

Kiyosato Station is the last stop within the borders of Yamanashi Prefecture before the JR Koumi Line winds through the hills into Nagano. The Kiyosato resort area, with its western accents and rustic pleasures, offers everything from modern art museums to horseback riding and hot springs. But with winter blanketing the slopes and forests, a steaming cup of coffee can add just the right touch to any visitor's winter experience.

There's just something to be said about simple pleasures.

A quick stroll from the station is Moeginomura, a sprawling complex of country style shops, restaurants, and cafes. One particular coffee house catches the eye due to its auspicious location next to a well-loved childhood memory.



### [Writer's recommendation]

Try the *Cafè con Panna* accompanied with the seasonal baked apple pie. The apple is cored, baked whole until tender and then placed between two slices of pastry. Add a scoop of ice cream and a sprinkle of powdered sugar, and you have a perfect compliment to the smooth bitterness of the coffee.



The aptly named **Merry Go Round Café** offers a comfortable atmosphere suited to all seasons and members of the family—dogs are welcome here too! With a veranda for the spring and summer, and an indoor space flooded with light for those colder days, the Merry Go Round Café is an ideal place to chat and rest while shopping at Moeginomura.



**Café Back Country** is halfway between Kiyosato Station and Moeginomura. It offers a variety of beer, whiskey, wine, and cocktails in addition to a vast array of teas and coffees. Small, cozy, and boasting a pleasant atmospheric fusion of jazz-meets-Japanese-rustic-culture, Café Back Country offers an eclectic experience for travelers taking a moment to enjoy the abundant natural environment surrounding the Kiyosato area. For those who like sweeter drinks, try the Secret Macchiato!

Another Moeginomura café is **Homemade Cake & Tea Room Carole**, which offers a variety of cakes, in addition to a lunch menu. With a warm atmosphere and friendly staff, it is easy to feel at home.

### [Writer's recommendation]

At *Carole*, the Russian tea is served with delicious homemade jam which can be mixed into the brew or eaten separately to sweeten the palate. The *tarte au fraise* and its topping of fresh strawberries is also a nice treat for fruit lovers.



For travelers waiting for their train, try **Shirayuri**. Spacious and conveniently located in front of Kiyosato Station, Shirayuri serves both cakes and light meals. One of the main perks is its seating capacity, which makes it easy to accommodate larger groups. A nice place to drink a café au lait at the end of a long, cold day.

