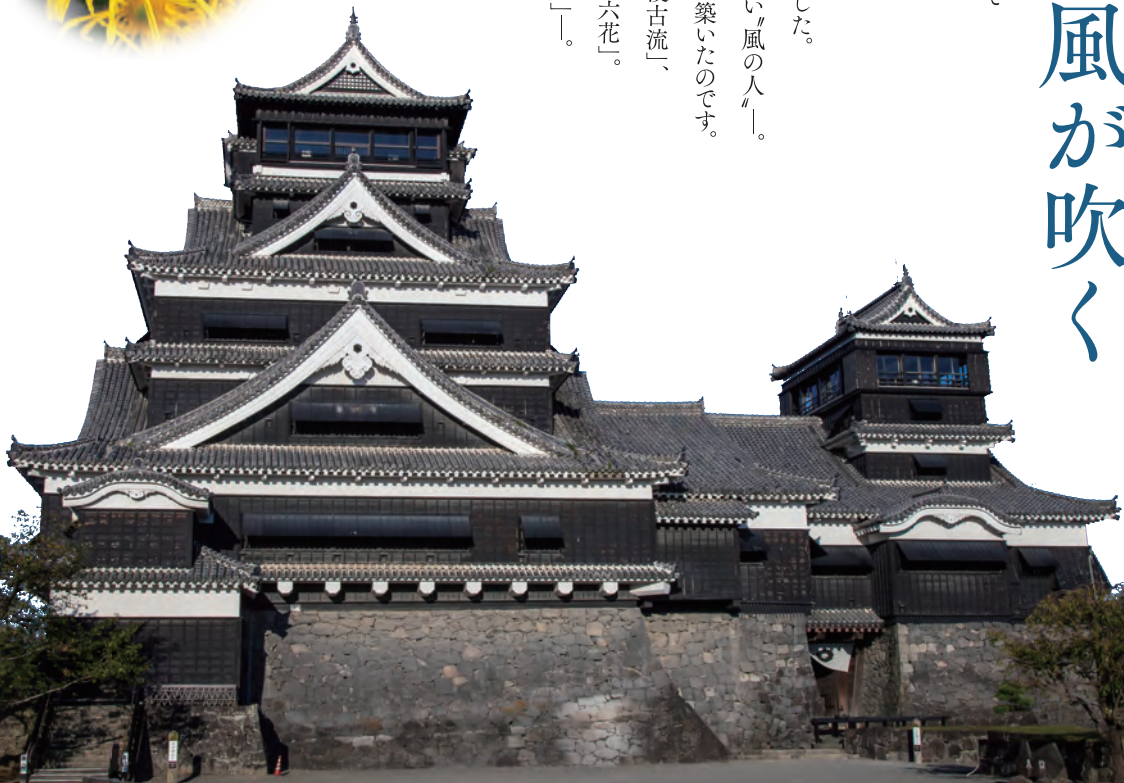


400 Years Under Kato Kiyomasa & the Hosokawa Clan

The Winds that Changed Kumamoto

Constructed over 400 years ago, Kumamoto Castle still stands as the protector of the history of Kumamoto. Lord Kato Kiyomasa—the castle's architect and former ruler of Kumamoto—and the lords of the Hosokawa Clan who followed him developed a rich culture deeply informed by a samurai aesthetic. Both Kato Kiyomasa and Hosokawa Tadatoshi (the first of the Hosokawa rulers in Kumamoto) were not locals—they were *kaze-no-hito*, people of the wind. They brought the winds of reform to Kumamoto and built the foundations of what Kumamoto is today. Kumamoto's unique cultural touchpoints are influenced by samurai culture: from the Higo Koryu school of tea ceremony that incorporates aspects of samurai etiquette, to the Higo Rokka (“Six Flowers of Higo”) bred at the skilled hands of warriors and the Higo Zogan style of metal inlay used to decorate samurai swords. Throughout its history, Kumamoto has absorbed new knowledge and technologies to develop a variety of unique traditional cultures and arts.



加藤・細川400年の歴史薫る

くまもとの風が吹く

築城400年余、江戸時代から現代まで

熊本を歴史を見守り続けてきた熊本城。

加藤清正が築城し、

その後入国した細川忠利ら歴代藩主が、

武士の美学が宿る多彩な文化を育みました。

加藤清正も細川忠利も熊本出身ではない「風の人」。

改革の風を巻き起こし、今の熊本の礎を築いたのです。

武士ならではの作法が生きた茶道「肥後古流」、

武士のたしなみとして育てられた「肥後六花」。

そして、かつて刀を装飾した「肥後象がん」。

新しき知識と技術を取り入れ、

歴史を重ねてきた熊本には、

今もさまざまな伝統文化・工芸などが

息づいています。