

Maine & New England Minority Owned Small Business of the Year

Miaky LLC



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SPECIAL SECTIONS WRITER

Any weekend of the year, walk into either of Masa Miyake's two Portland restaurants — Miyake, his flagship, high-end, James Beard Award-nominated restaurant, or Pai Men Miyake, his casual noodle and small plate eatery — and you'd be hard-pressed to find a table right away. Whether it's the dead of winter or the height of summer, his restaurants are always full.

There's are a number of reasons Miyake, 53, who also operates a busy catering business from the Freeport farm he owns

and operates with his family, has found great success in his adopted home of Portland. That's probably why he was named the Small Business Administration's Maine & New England Minority Owned Small Business of the Year for 2016.

Miyake was nominated for the award by Jennifer Sporzynski of Coastal Enterprises Inc. in Brunswick, a mission-driven lender and investor specializing in rural economic development in Maine.

"It has been a true honor working with Masa, originally helping him start his business so many years ago and now watching him bring his vision to life with

his two restaurants and his farm," said Sporzynski. "It is great when good people are recognized, and he certainly has received several amazing accolades, including being a James Beard finalist last year. It is wonderful that the Small Business Administration has acknowledged his hard work — and delicious food — as well."

"I feel honored to receive this recognition. I am happy to bring a little bit of Japanese culture to Maine, but even happier that Maine has been so welcoming and supportive of me along the way," said Miyake. "I cannot think of a better place to raise a family, run a small farm, and, of course, have two restaurants where I am able to combine both Maine and Japanese styles and flavors."

Miyake was born in Aomori Prefecture in the Tohoku region of Japan. At age 21, he moved to New York City, where he got his

first job working in a macrobiotic kitchen. A few years later, Miyake returned to Japan, settling in Tokyo where he was trained in French and Italian cuisine, and opened his first restaurant, serving Italian food. As Miyake said on his website, "patrons should never expect anything when they walk into a restaurant."

Miyake eventually returned to New York City. After vacationing in Portland and Bar Harbor, he decided to move to Maine permanently, saying that its coastline reminded him of his childhood home of Aomori. In 2007, he opened Miyake, and followed that in 2010 with Pai Men Miyake.

For Miyake, the success of his food boils down entirely to the quality of the ingredients.

"It's not the quality of the kitchen or the training of the chef — if you use subpar ingredients, it will never be quality food," said Miyake.



Winner of the MINORITY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR MAINE & NEW ENGLAND

Masahiko Miyake
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Congratulations to our client Masahiko Miyake
and all of the U.S. Small Business Administration
award winners in Maine

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COURTESY OF MASA MIYAKE