



# *wagazasshi*

¥0

## *Essence of Japan*

*Events | Karate | Super Sentai | Poetry | Owl Café*

# *Nagazasshi*

Volume 6 Issue 6  
May/June 2014

## **Editor-in-chief**

Audrey Akcasu  
Katy Squicciarini

## **Deputy Editor**

Qi Yang

## **Assistant Editors**

Douglas Bonham  
Matthew Jones  
Andrew Massey  
Niel Thompson

## **Copy Editor**

Jasmine Francois  
Doug Bonham

## **Japanese Editor**

Asami Kobayashi

## **Treasurer**

Susan Fogarty

## **Layout and Design**

Laurel Williams

## **Contributors**

Audrey Akcasu	Emily Maitland
Amy Gifford	Niel Thompson
Lexie Howe	Remco Vrolijk
Sarah Kniss	Luis Zapata

## **Founders**

Andrew Morris  
Matthew Nelson

[www.nagazasshi.com](http://www.nagazasshi.com)

Cover photo:  
Rice Fields of Hirado  
By Remco Vrolijk

We're on the verge of summer! Finally, the days will be long and you can go out and play... oh, wait, it's raining again. Despite all of the complaints about rainy season, let us not forget the good things it brings. Soon, nature will be bursting out in all forms: flowers, shrubs, new leaves on trees. The rivers and waterfalls will flow and rise to a good level for swimming. The idyllic picturesque rice fields will be flooded and the new green rice will grow at an astounding fast pace, right in our backyard (p. 10)! We're lucky to live in such a beautiful, nature-filled place, but it wouldn't last long without June's downpours.

Like how rain brings beauty and life, education brings beauty and life to the minds of kids. This month we are excited to display some impressive work by some Nagasaki students from Iki Island (p. 16).

This rainy season, however, also signals the end of my time working with *Nagazasshi*. I can't believe it's been almost four years since I started writing and three since I joined the staff. I have learned so much about Japan and the world from not just the articles and authors I've worked with, but also the events and projects we've put on. I want to thank all of the authors who have given their time and effort to the magazine. Without the 100-percent volunteer staff, those articles would never have been published. Qi, Matt, Jasmine, Doug, Susan—thank you for your time, effort, help and support.

After this issue we are passing the torch on to a new team of fresh faces who I have full faith in. Katy, Andrew, Niel, Laurel and Karl, good luck, and thank you for continuing the *Nagazasshi*.

**Audrey Akcasu, Editor-in-chief**



6

photo Audrey Akcasu

# Contents

**Events** 4

**Japanese Martial Arts: Karate** 6

*Our latest series continues with its second installment*

**Super Sentai and Power Rangers** 8

*Flashback to your childhood*

**Rice** 10

*The Essence of Japanese Society and Culture*

**How to: Deal with the Rainy Season** 14

*Learn how to properly combat moisture*

**Student Poems** 16

*Poetry by students from Iki island*

**It's a Hoot! Owl See You in Fukuoka!** 17

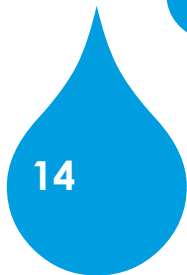
*Discover the latest craze – owl cafés!*

**Kanji of the Month** 19



8

photo flickr.com/greyloch



14

16

photo flickr.com/tbonesteak



17

photo Lexie Howe





## **Event of the Month**

**The 12th Goto Firefly Festival**

**May 23-June 15**

**Shinkamigoto, Goto City**

Experience one of the most enchanting night events with food stalls, friends and, of course, thousands of dazzling fireflies—  
a summertime must-see.



# Events

## **Glover Garden Flower Romance Festival**

**Until June 30, Nagasaki**

Enjoy the 40th annual garden opening at one of Nagasaki's top tourist attractions. If beautiful flowers in springtime isn't enough, you can top off your visit with the third most beautiful night view in Japan.

## **Hasami Pottery Festival**

**April 29-May 5, Hasami**

Head to Hasami for the prefecture's biggest porcelain market. You can get the famous pottery for once-a-year low prices and also try out a pottery wheel or pottery painting. Most stores offer a discount if you bring old pottery to exchange. Don't miss the Hasami-themed photo contest either!

## **Ninety Nine Islands Special Cruises**

**May 3-6, Sasebo**

The Pearl Sea Resort is offering two special cruises during Golden Week. Enjoy the evening breeze with the Romantic Sunset Cruise, or act like a kid on the Adventure Cruise.

## **Peacock Festival/Kujaku Matsuri**

**May 5, Kawatana**

Help this small town celebrate the 50th anniversary of its most famous attraction, the Peacock Park. There will be a hot-air balloon and a variety of shows including dog Frisbee and an Indian curry corner.

## **Haiki Tea Market**

**May 7-9, 17-19, 27-29, Sasebo**

Four hundred years ago a tea market was started in Haiki. Gaining popularity throughout the years, it once attracted over 600 merchant ships. This market is said to have set the price of tea for all of Kyushu. You can shop at the same market as your Warring States Period predecessors.

## **Omura Flower Festival**

**Late May-June 20th, Omura**

The flowers just don't stop blooming in Omura! The last flower to bloom in this three-part festival is the iris. Three hundred thousand irises bloom in the converted moat around the ruins of Kushima Castle. The "City of Flowers" really lives up to its name.

## **Nagasaki Hydrangea Festival**

**May 25-June 16, Nagasaki City**

Head to Siebold University, Glover Garden, Dejima and a variety of other areas throughout Nagasaki City to view over 5,000 hydrangea plants with a wonderful array of colors.

## **Iki Cycling Festival**

**June 8, Iki City**

Want to see the beautiful scenery and beaches on Iki? Need some exercise? Kill two birds with one stone with this bike challenge. Adults can choose from a 50 km or 30 km course, while kids have an 8 km course.



Japanese Martial Arts:

# Karate

*Continuing the series on Japanese martial arts, Sarah Kniss takes us into the background of karate.*

**F**ew forms of martial arts are as synonymous with Japan as karate. Through movies and video games, many people have come to view karate as a near-mystical art and associate it closely with the Land of the Rising Sun. The truth is, karate was developed long before the modern media that popularized it, and not by the Japanese, but by the people of the nearby Ryukyu Islands.

“ **Karate was developed in what is now Okinawa, Japan** ”

Karate was developed in what is now Okinawa, Japan. But before it was annexed by Japan in the 19th century, Okinawa was part of a chain of islands called the Ryukyu Kingdom. Karate began as a common fighting system called *te* amongst the Ryukyu people. There were no formal methods, but rather many practitioners who had their own personal styles. After the establishment of trade relations with China,

Chinese forms of martial arts were introduced to the Ryukyu people by visitors from China. Members

of wealthy Okinawan families were also sent to China for study. This, as well as legal restrictions on weapons, led to the incorporation of Chinese kung-fu into the

pre-existing *te*, eventually giving birth to the forms practiced today.

After the Ryukyu islands were annexed by Japan, karate was brought to the mainland during a 20th century period of cultural exchange between the Japanese and the people of Ryukyu. In 1924, Keio University formed the first university karate club, and by 1932 many major universities had one. The martial arts movies of the 1960s and 1970s popularized karate, and many people around the world became interested in studying the art.



The last part of karate practice is *kumite*, or actual sparring with other students. Before the 1930s, there was no *kumite* in karate, and instruction was focused purely on *kihon* and *kata*. However, a martial artist names Hironori Ohtsuka thought that a more dynamic, true-to-life form of karate was necessary and introduced free-fighting, or *kumite*, to his instruction. In pre-World War II Okinawa, it was not a part of training, and some were even kicked out of their *dojo* for adopting the sparring practices they had learned in Tokyo. Today, it is a part of some styles and readily taught alongside *kihon* and *kata*.

Karate practice commonly consists of *kihon*, *kata*, and *kumite*. *Kihon*

“ **Traditional karate focuses on self-development, perseverance, humility, and virtue** ”

Karate can take on a variety of roles to its students. It

are a series of exercises that reinforce basic movements. They repeat a set of punches, blocks, and footwork that are fundamental to anything more complex. Without properly mastering the *kihon*, a student of karate will have a hard time with *kata*. *Kata* are choreographed forms that make use of the basic *kihon* but structure them into a routine meant to simulate a fight against multiple opponents. There are many *kata*, and they form part of what a student is tested on in order to gain ranks.



may be a sport, a method of self-defense, a connection to their culture, or a philosophy. Sport karate places emphasis on exercise, agility, and competition. Traditional karate focuses on self-development, perseverance, humility, and virtue. In either case, those who practice the art of karate do so with the sincere desire to better themselves. This desire is not unique to the Japanese, but present in the people all over the world whom this Japanese art has reached. 🇯🇵

Check back next issue for a peek into a different Japanese marital art.





**Niel Thompson** gives some background into two of Japan and America's most favorite children's TV series.

**D**ebuting in August 1993 and recently celebrating its 20-year anniversary, the American television show *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* rooted itself in the imaginations of kids nationwide, becoming a childhood touchstone for an entire generation.

The show was a common children's action show: a group of five teenagers with

attitude get super powers, becoming the titular Power Rangers, and battle against the alien space witch Rita Repulsa and her horde of evil monsters. Rita has the power to make her monsters grow to enormous size. To combat the building-sized monsters, the Rangers use similarly styled robots, which can combine together to make an even bigger robot called the Megazord. Though the series is revamped with a new theme every year, the basic formula never strays far from the original.

“ **Many viewers are, however, unaware of the fact that much of the action footage in Power Rangers was taken from the Japanese Super Sentai series** ”

Many viewers are, however, unaware of the fact that much of the action footage in *Power*

*Rangers* was taken from the Japanese *Super Sentai* series, one of Japan's premiere children's super hero shows that have been on air for over thirty years. This show is



like the Japanese analog to the Avengers and the Justice League. The primary difference is that instead of creating different superheroes, the production company, Toei, just makes a new program using the same template but with a new theme or twist to keep it interesting. For example, last year's *Super Sentai* — *Zyuden Sentai Kyoryuger* — was the third dinosaur-themed *Sentai*, while the theme of this year's series, *Ressha Sentai Tokkyuger's*, is trains.

The very first *Sentai* to be adapted into *Power Rangers* was *Kyoryu Sentai Zyuranger*, which was also the first dinosaur-themed *Sentai*. Its plot follows an evil witch named Bandora who waged war against dinosaurs and drove them to extinction. Bandora gained her magic by making a deal with the great Satan. She was defeated and sealed away on the planet 'Nemesis.' Eventually, astronauts travel to 'Nemesis' and accidentally release her. The five warriors who had defeated her are also awakened, and fight Bandora for just over fifty episodes.

The production team for *Power Rangers* reused action and battle scenes from *Super Sentai* and had the American actors dub over them. This way, they only had to film situational scenes and establishing shots, which helped keep production costs low. They did the same thing with the footage of the villains, although the actors and actresses voicing the villains appeared on screen.


The process of adapting footage from *Super Sentai* and turning it into *Power Rangers* is fascinating. Not only is it interesting to see one show become something entirely different despite using some of the same footage, it's also cool to see how cultural differences influenced the use of the footage. For example, the Green Ranger of the *Zyuranger* team, Burai, actually dies before the show is over. While this was not an issue in Japan, it was thought the death had to be adapted for American audiences. *Power Rangers* got around this problem by having their Green Ranger lose his powers and no longer fight with the team.

The Green Ranger was too popular, though, and was brought back. However,

“ **The production team for Power Rangers reused action and battle scenes from Super Sentai and had the American actors dub over them** ”

because his *Sentai* counterpart died before the end of the show, there was very little usable footage of the character. This problem was compounded

by the fact that most of the available *Zyuranger* footage had already been used. To rectify this problem, Toei was commissioned to film new fight scenes that could be used. This footage is sometimes referred to by fans as *Zyu 2* and is exclusive to the American version of the show even though it was made in Japan.

If you're interested in studying the difference between Japanese and Western media and entertainment, then you might find comparing *Super Sentai* and its corresponding season of *Power Rangers* to be right up your alley. 

# Rice



## The Essence of Japanese Society and Culture

*Hungry? Let **Emily Maitland** tell you about Japan's main staple food.*

**F**or ages, rice has been an essential part of Japanese society and from even a brief glimpse at the culture, it's easy to see how rice is intricately woven into many Japanese values and beliefs. This connection can also be seen through many different language forms and expressions,

both contemporary and historical. So, just how did rice become such an integral part of Japanese society and culture?

Although rice is understood to be a Japanese staple, it has not always been that way, nor may it continue to be so in the future. Before the introduction of rice cultivation and the shift towards sedentary agriculture at the end of the *Jo-mon* era, about 2500 years ago, the Japanese people, like many other cultures, lived a hunter-gather

“ **Wet-rice cultivation in Japan led to a rapid increase in population and civilization** ”

lifestyle. Their diet mainly consisted of nuts, meat and seafood.

Wet-rice cultivation in Japan is thought to have been introduced through two different routes. One was through the Korean peninsula, and the other a direct sea route from China. However, this still remains a controversial topic. Just outside of Nagasaki are the Nabatake

Ruins, located in Karatsu, Saga Prefecture. These ruins are believed to be some of the first wet-rice cultivation fields in Japan. Wet-rice cultivation in Japan led to a rapid increase in population and civilization, and thus, many Japanese

cultural values and beliefs were born and are still present today.

For example, the notions of *wa* 和 (harmony) and *amae* 甘え (emotional dependence) are believed to originate from

wet rice cultivation.

Traditionally, wet rice cultivation was a labor-intensive operation that required intense cooperation. Families relied on each

other for facilities and resources. These working conditions required the families to have a high level of trust as well as a strong relationship in order to avoid friction. This commitment to group harmony and emotional dependence on

“ **Traditionally, wet rice cultivation was a labor-intensive operation that required intense cooperation** ”





“ In fact, over the last two decades, Japan's agriculture and rice cultivating industry continues to decline year by year ”

each other is a symbol of original rice culture.

The meaning of rice itself and how it is used in Japanese language also gives insight into how rice is seen as a staple food and how deeply connected rice is to Japanese society and culture. The word *gohan* ごはん in Japanese language means both “cooked rice” or “meal”. This shows how rice is seen as a meal in itself. The word *gohan* is also used in other Japanese words, like *asagohan* あさごはん (breakfast), *hirugohan* ひるごはん (lunch) and *ban-gohan* ばんごはん (dinner). It's almost impossible for Japanese people to think of a meal without rice.

As wet-rice cultivation became increasingly popular all over Japan, the way in which rice was used and served began to show the differences in social class. It was seen as a sign of affluence to those who were served *gohan* with seasonal flavored *okazu* おかず (side dishes), *mochi* もち (pounded rice cakes) and *sake* さけ (rice wine) to complement rice consumption. For the poor, *gohan* and *mochi* were only used in important meals and for celebrations. *Mochi* was said to contain “the spirit of rice,” as it was thought that the essence and sacred power of rice was made purer by pounding it. To this day many Japanese people still associate *mochi* with celebrations, in particular the annual New Years Day celebrations.



However, due to the influence of Western cultures, technology, cheap imported products, and Japan's ageing population and scarcity of farming land, Japan is no longer a country where 90% of its population is engaged in rice cultivation. In fact, over the last two decades, even with government support, Japan's agriculture and rice cultivating industry continues to decline year by year.

With all these factors affecting rice cultivation and agriculture in Japan, will rice remain Japan's staple food? If not, will rice still retain its cultural importance in the future? The next time you sit down and eat a bowl of rice, take the time to think about the long and deep connection between rice and Japanese society and whether or not that will last. 🍚

## Photo Credits & Information

### Pp. 10 - 11

- Left: House amongst rice fields in Hirado **Remco Vrolijk**
- Right: Rice fields in Omura **Audrey Akcasu**

### Pp. 12 - 13

- Left: Rice fields at dusk in Arie, Minamishimabara **Luis Zapata**

**Deliciously  
Yummy!**



## KEBAB STAND PLUS +

4-12, Tokiwa-machi,  
Sasebo-city, 857-0053

Open 11:30-19:30

Closed / Wednesday

Call-in order are OK.

☎0956-76-8477

### Message from the shop:

You will feel right at home with our great tasting kebabs!  
Please check our Kebab Stand Plus + page on Facebook.  
We look forward to your business.

英会話

Honey  
English

無料体験授業実施中

080-1744-5568

<http://www.honeyenglish.net/>  
元船町6-6松尾ビル301

# How to:

## Deal with the Rainy Season

Don't let rainy season get you down this year! Let us give you some tips for staying dry, cool and mold-free.



### Using your air conditioner effectively:

With all that moisture looming around during rainy season, one thing is inevitable—mold! Using the air con is one of the best ways to protect your apartment and things in it against mold. You may be tempted to run the cool setting for hours; however, you'll be met with an expensive bill. You can avoid that by using the de-humidifier function that comes on most air cons. It is either labeled as *dorai* (ドライ) or *joshitsu* (除湿). Your apartment won't be Arctic-cool, but you can save a bit of money during the season while keeping mold at bay.



### Keeping the shower room spotless:

Keeping the shower room clear of water spots and mold is no easy task during

rainy season. Clean your surfaces with マジックリン (*majikkurin*), Magic Clean, an all-purpose surface cleaner available at drug stores. Mix equal parts hot water and vinegar together in a bucket and use it to scrub hard water spots on levers and knobs. As for stubborn mold, pick up a カビキラー (*kabikira*) spray, literally mold killer, and spray and scrub away.



### Preventing and dealing with mold in other places:

While avoiding mold is of course preferable, if you do start seeing a green film on your *tatami* mats, or a white dust-like substance lines your wooden furniture, it's best to take care of it right away.

Similar to the shower room, you can use store-bought sprays or bleach to kill the mold, but there are a few safer and less-smelly options as well. First things first, whether you have mold already or just want to prevent it, get yourself an empty spray-bottle.

Solutions: Add straight white wine vinegar (a bit smellier) or a quarter teaspoon of baking soda in water to your



bottle. You can spray the solution directly onto any surface and scrub away the mold, then wait for about half an hour, wipe up any remaining mold, pray the area again and let dry to defend against future fungi intruders.



### Protect your wardrobe with a dehumidifier:

Popping a desiccant dehumidifier or moisture-absorbing packet, *shikkitori* (湿気とり), in your closet is a great way to keep your clothes dry and mold-free. They are also very reasonably priced at any convenience store, grocery or chemist. The final advantage is that they are silent and don't drain electricity. Just remember to change them regularly, at the height of rainy season as one box of desiccant crystals can get used up in under a week.



### Cool Biz:

One of the best ways to stay cool and dry during rainy season is to make sure your clothes are cool. For the last decade, the Japanese Ministry of Environment has been promoting "Cool Biz" and "Super Cool Biz" as a way for companies to save energy and relax dress codes in the workplace. From May, the Cool Biz workplace allows for short-sleeved dress shirts and looser slacks; from June, polo shirts are also okay.

Because of this, there is plenty of Cool Biz clothing available. Cool Biz-style goods are usually designed to allow for airflow, using materials that breathe better. Goodbye wool and cotton, hello microfibers! These clothes are made to fit looser and keep you from getting sticky during the hot, humid rainy season and summer weather.

Be sure to check with your employer first, of course, but Cool Biz can be a great way to beat the heat in the summer. And don't forget your sweat towel! ☀️

photo Remco Vrolijk

**ENJOY EVERY SANDWICH CAFE ON THE ROUTE**

Today's SPECIALS  
Lemon Muffin

20M Martens Museum - Nishizaka Park  
St. Philip Church  
Bus Transit  
Nagasaki Sta.

2F, 5-14 Nishizaka-machi  
Nagasaki  
Tel: 095-895-8965

**TAKE OUT OK**  
**SANDWICH**  
**COFFEE**

Sandwiches	Baguettes
Roast Pork ¥780	Vietnamese ¥840
B.L.T. ¥630	Japanese Tuna ¥690
Veggie ¥690	Salmon ¥840

OPEN 11:00 - 16:00  
CLOSED Mondays

# Student Poems

*As the school year came to a close, the second year class of Ishida Junior High School on Iki island reflected on their last two years of school and the themes that were most important to them.*

## **I Love the Sky**

*By Noriko Mayaumi*

I believe that there is hope in the future,  
When I look up at the sky I want to cry.  
There is a lot of emotion in the sky.  
Sometimes I get angry, sometimes I cry  
Sometimes, I laugh, sometimes.  
This is why I love the sky.

## **My Friend**

*By Ami Jyou*

A friend is a person that is important for me.  
It is not a bad thing to quarrel with a friend  
Because we can understand each other.  
If a friend succeeds, I am pleased.  
Such an existence is the evidence of a true friendship.

## **Trust**

*By Kazuto Ogami*

It is difficult to regain the trust  
that I lost once.  
But it is not impossible.  
Just try! You can do it!



IT'S A HOOT!



OWL. SEE YOU IN FUKUOKA!

Forget cat cafés. Let **Lexie Howe** tell you about the latest novelty café trend in Japan, the “fukurou café” (フクロウカフェ), or “owl café”.

**T**he owl café trend started in Tokyo with the *Tori no Iru Café* in 2012. But you don't have to plan a trip to Tokyo to visit an owl café, one just opened in Fukuoka!

The *Fukurou no Mise Hakata* (フクロウのみせ博多) opened in January 2014 and is located on the Canal City end of the Kawabata Arcade (Nakasukawabata subway exit). The entrance to the café is fairly unassuming and could easily be missed

were it not for the crowds that appear on the hour, expectantly waiting to get in.

Groups of up to 20 are allowed inside to enjoy a drink and time with the café owls. At ¥1,000 for 50 minutes and one drink (+¥200 more if the drink is alcoholic), it's pretty comparable to most cat cafés. However, even with the steep price, time slots fill up quickly. It's a bit troublesome, since same-day reservations must be made in person. However, there is a helpful board outside with colored tags indicating which times are still available.

If you do reserve a spot, you need to arrive 10 minutes before your selected time. After the staff calls your name, you are led through the owl room and upstairs to the café. There you select your drink (from a very limited menu), sanitize



your hands, and listen to a lengthy set of instructions (which are also outlined on an English handout).

After instructions, everyone hurries downstairs to hold and pet the owls. A large set of metal shelves house the owls who are resting, and may not be touched. While another large perch holds the 4 or 5 active owls which you may hold and pet. The staff help place the owl on your hand, shoulder, or head (with a brief warning that the owl



might poop on you) and are happy to take pictures for you and tell you the owls' names. When about five minutes are left, the staff will begin to usher people upstairs to pay, visit the gift shop, and collect any items you might have left upstairs.

Although the space is very small, the owls are all very healthy, clean, and well fed. The owner hopes to expand as soon as the café can earn enough money to do so. 🌱

photos Lexie Howe

## KUMON HAIKI CENTER

Let's study  
***Japanese***  
the **most effective** way!



**Instructor**  
Kiyoko Hayashi



2-19-22 Haiki  
Sasebo City  
Nagasaki



090-7162-7577



kumons@  
mtf.biglobe.ne.jp

# KUMON

# Kanji of the Month



## Radical Kanji yama, yamaken, yamakanmuri

This month's kanji is another one which looks somewhat like its meaning. It appears alone or as a radical in the names for heaps of geographical features, including the name of our prefecture, Nagasaki. Let's take a look...

山 (yama) means 'mountain'. It is often pronounced san when connected to the name of a mountain, like 富士山, Fujisan, or Mt. Fuji, or zan, such as in 登山 tozan, mountain climbing.

The mountain radical often appears at the left of a character, and is called yamaken. For example:

峠 touge - mountain pass. This is a special kokuji, one of a small set of characters which were invented in Japan rather than coming from China.

峰 mine - peak, ridge

峡 as in 海峡 kaikyō (strait)

When it appears as a radical in the center or base of a kanji, it is simply called yama. For example:

島 shima - island

岳 dake - peak, point

And when it's on top of a kanji, it is called yamakanmuri. For example:

岩 iwa - cliff, rock

崖 gake - bluff, precipice

岸 kishi - coast, shore

Lastly, one of Japan's favorite boy bands, 嵐 Arashi! Arashi means 'storm', and the kanji is made of a mountain over the character for 'wind'.

Have a look at place names as you travel around and see where you can spot mountains. Quite a lot of these also appear in family names.

Oh and 崎 saki means 'cape' or 'promontory', which in combination with 長 (long) makes 長崎 - Nagasaki, the 'long cape'. There you have it!

Amy Gifford



*Nomihoudai  
party plans  
available*

*A short walk  
from Sasebo  
Station*



# MIKE'S

*The best Mexican food in Nagasaki*

*Contact*

[www.mikes-sasebo.com](http://www.mikes-sasebo.com)  
0956-24-2704

*Open*

11.30-14.00  
17.00-22.00

*Address*

長崎県佐世保市下京町4-8  
Sasebo, Shimokyo-cho 4-8



*Homemade salsa and guacamole*



*Taco Salad*



*International beers and specialty margaritas*



*Hungry Hombre Special*