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TRIPS

of a

LIFETIME

60
PLACES

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Romantic Getaways
Island Fantasies
Iconic Cities

The village of Oia,
on the Greek island
of Santorini, p. 18.

TIME INC. SPECIALS

Display until August 14, 2015
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Wadakura
restaurant,
at the Palace
Hotel Tokyo.

Tokyo

When it comes to Asian megalopolises, Tokyo falls into a category of its own: few cities offer such a dizzying array of restaurants (more than 80,000), luxurious lodging, vibrant nightlife, and legendary shopping, all set against a rich cultural backdrop. Don't wait until the 2020 Summer Olympics to go.

STAY At the **Palace Hotel** (palacehoteltokyo.com; \$\$\$), a 290-room property in Marunouchi, indigenous materials such as gray *aji* stones evoke the neighboring Imperial Palace grounds. The hotel's Wadakura restaurant is also steeped in tradition, with individual dining rooms for sushi, teppanyaki, and tempura.

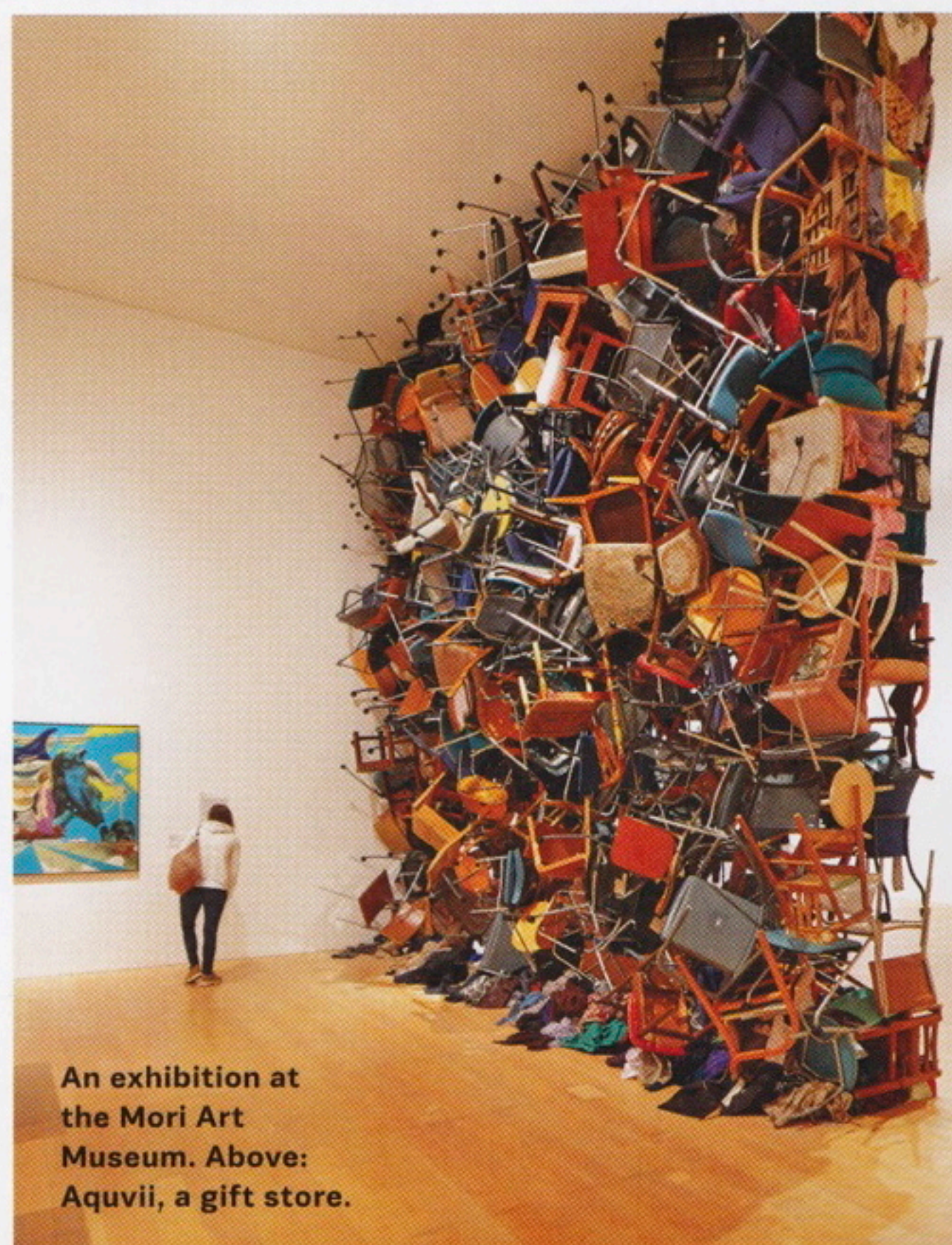
EAT For fun twists on classic kaiseki, head to **Jimbocho Den** (jimbochoden.com; \$\$\$\$), where Zaiyu Hasegawa blends authentic cooking techniques with playful presentations: "Dentucky" fried chicken comes stuffed with sticky rice, while a mascarpone dessert, sprinkled with ground-tea-leaf "dirt," is served on a spade with a pair of gardening gloves. Devotees line up at



Hototogisu (2-47-12 Hatagaya; \$), a no-frills, eight-seat joint that makes ramen with an intense pork-and-clam-based broth (below left).



DO Set in Roppongi's Mori Tower, the **Mori Art Museum** (mori.art.museum) has a top-notch collection of contemporary works from the likes of China's controversial Ai Wei Wei and American video artist Bill Viola. With locations in Daikanyama and Jingumae, **Aquvii** (aquvii.com) is a treasure trove of offbeat souvenirs, full of unique finds like tote bags in the shape of Do Not Disturb signs. For the city's best bookstore, head to **Daikanyama T-Site** (above; tsite.jp/daikanyama), which has more than 140,000 titles of virtually every genre.



An exhibition at the Mori Art Museum. Above: Aquvii, a gift store.



KYOTO

A little more than two hours southwest of Tokyo via the bullet train, Japan's ancient capital is famous for its centuries-old streets, shrines, temples, and traditions. The hotel options just got a lot better with the debut of the Ritz-Carlton Kyoto (ritzcarlton.com; \$\$\$), a 134-room retreat set along the Kamo River and decorated with bonsai trees. The major temples, like Kiyomizu-dera and Nanzen-ji, are worth exploring, but be sure to make room in your schedule for the Kyoto National Museum's (kyohaku.go.jp) minimalist new wing. Designed by Yoshio Taniguchi, it houses exhibitions of historical artifacts.