

Kenji Takahashi

Itamae

CONTACT

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San Francisco, CA

EDUCATION

Tokyo Sushi Academy, Tokyo, Japan

Graduated in 2010

- Specialization in Edomae Sushi and Traditional Japanese Culinary Arts

Certifications

- ServSafe Food Handler Certification** | National Restaurant Association – 2019
- Certified Professional Sushi Chef** | All Japan Sushi Association – 2018

AWARDS

Best Sushi Chef of the Year: San Francisco Magazine, 2023.

Michelin Star: Sushi Ran received its star in 2018 and retained it during my tenure.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Highly skilled Itamae with 12+ years of experience in traditional Edomae-style sushi preparation, known for maintaining the highest standards of craftsmanship and artistry. Passionate about seasonal ingredients, knife techniques, and offering customers a memorable dining experience.

EXPERIENCE

Itamae Sushi Chef 2017 - Now

Sushi Ran, Sausalito, CA

- Spearhead the sushi bar operations at a Michelin-starred restaurant, consistently providing exceptional sushi to a high-end clientele.
- Manage a team of junior chefs, ensuring adherence to traditional Japanese techniques and food safety standards.
- Curate daily fish selections, working closely with fishmongers to ensure the freshest and highest quality seafood.
- Develop innovative seasonal omakase menus while maintaining a focus on traditional methods.
- Train and mentor staff on sushi preparation, knife handling, and ingredient sourcing.

Senior Sushi Chef 2012 - 2016

Ozumo, San Francisco, CA

- Led sushi preparation and presentation in a high-volume, contemporary Japanese restaurant in downtown San Francisco.
- Collaborated with the head chef on seasonal sushi specials and menu items.
- Ensured smooth operation of the sushi station during peak service hours.

SKILLS

Expert-level knife skills (Yanagi, Usuba, Deba)	★★★★★
Fish filleting and butchering techniques	★★★★★
Advanced knowledge of sushi rice preparation	★★★★★
Menu development (omakase)	★★★★★
Team leadership and staff training	★★★★★
Fluent in English and Japanese	★★★★★