

History of Matsuzakaya

- 1611 ■ Genzaemon Sukemichi Ito, a son of Ranmaru Sukehiro Ito who served Nobunaga Oda, opened a kimono fabric and fancy goods wholesale store in Honmachi, Nagoya. (Foundation of Matsuzakaya)
- 1659 ■ Sukemichi's son Sukemoto opened a kimono fabric and fancy goods wholesale store in Chayamachi, Nagoya and called himself Jirozaemon Ito. (Since then the heads of the Ito family succeed to the name Jirozaemon.)
- 1736 ■ Ito Gofukuten changed its trade from a silk kimono fabric wholesaler to a silk and cotton kimono fabric retailer.
- 1740 ■ Ito Gofukuten became a kimono fabric purveyor to the Owari Tokugawa clan.
- 1745 ■ Kyoto Merchandising Branch opened in Muromachi Anekoji. (Newly built at the present location in Shinmachidori Rokkaku in 1749)
- 1768 ■ Acquired Matsuzakaya in Ueno Hirokoji and began business as "Ito Matsuzakaya."
- 1907 ■ Ueno store was rebuilt into a Western-style building to display goods for sale and reorganized into "Goshi Kaisha (limited partnership) Ito Gofukuten" (capital ¥250,000) to become financially independent. Employed saleswomen.
- 1910 ■ Established "Kabushiki Kaisha Ito Gofukuten" with a capital of ¥500,000. Reopened Nagoya store at Sakaemachi Kado, Nagoya as the first department store in the Nagoya region.
- 1911 ■ Formed Ito Gofukuten Boys Music Band. (Present Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra)
- 1917 ■ Completed the new main building of Ueno store. (Burnt down in the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923)
- 1918 ■ Introduced uniforms for the first time in the department store industry. (Striped cotton kimono with a muslin sash)
- 1924 ■ Ginza store opened at the present location. Allowed customers to enter all floors with their shoes on for the first time in the department store industry.
- 1925 ■ Changed the company name to "Kabushiki Kaisha Matsuzakaya."
- Nagoya store moved to Minamiotsumachi (present location).
- 1929 ■ Rebuilt the new main building of Ueno store at the present location.
- The first elevator girls in the department store industry debuted in Ueno store.
- 1930 ■ The basement of Ueno store was directly connected to Ueno Hirokoji station on subway Ginza line.
- 1932 ■ Shizuoka store opened.
- 1957 ■ Added a south wing to Ueno store.
- Established Matsuzakaya Kimono Museum in Kyoto.
- 1966 ■ Held a huge sale on live animals on the roof of Ginza store.
- 1971 ■ Okazaki store opened.
- 1972 ■ Built an annex to Ginza store and opened an underground passage leading to Ginza subway station.
- Added a north wing to Nagoya store.
- 1974 ■ Nagoya Station store opened.
- 1979 ■ Takatsuki store opened.
- 1991 ■ Issued Matsuzakaya My Card.
- Nagoya store added a south wing to consist of three buildings.
- Opened "Matsuzakaya Museum" in the south wing of Nagoya store.
- 1993 ■ Established a corporate philosophy.
- 1995 ■ Put up a website and opened an online shop.
- 1996 ■ Added a north wing to Shizuoka store.
- 1998 ■ Established an employee code of conduct and basic business transaction rules.
- 2000 ■ Developed the Matsuzakaya environment program and launched a new information system.
- 2001 ■ Toyota store opened.
- 2003 ■ Nagoya store added a new south wing to increase its floor space to the largest level in Japan (86,758 m²).
- 2004 ■ Introduced an executive officer system and established a management code for personal information protection.
- 2005 ■ Opened an official goods shop at the Exposition of Global Harmony.
- 2006 ■ Established a pure holding company "Matsuzakaya Holdings Co., Ltd."

a joint holding company J. Front Retailing Co., Ltd. and integrated management.



Matsuzakaya by Utagawa Hiroshige



Nagoya store reopened in Sakaemachi in 1910



Women wearing the industry's first uniforms (kimono)



Poster of Ito Gofukuten



Ginza store, the first department store allowing customers to enter with their shoes on



Nagoya store moved to the present location in Minamiotsumachi (at that time)



Elevator girls of Ueno store