

MARCH 25, 2015

BEST OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FEST

Celebrating cherry blossoms just makes sense. They're already exploding into candy tufts of God's own confetti, so a little recognition in historic Japanese tradition is fitting. Now in it's ninth year, the [Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival](#) fetes reawakening and good energy, so jump on this opportunity for fresh air and fun with our top festival picks:

Sakura Illumination: Sunset Beach blossom canopies are illuminated with video projections during this [atmospheric, lantern-strung seaside evening](#). *Friday, April 3rd, 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Beach and Thurlow*



Sakura

Days Japan Fair: Lovely for the whole family, this [day-long event](#) includes traditional rituals (tea ceremonies, sake tastings, haiku readings and a chance to try your hand at ikebana flower arrangements) as well as more contemporary opportunities (enter the Cosplay Contest dressed as your favourite anime character and meet the voice actors of *Dragonball Z*). All, of course, beneath blossom canopies. *Saturday and Sunday, April 11th and 12th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at VanDusen Botanical Garden*



Sakura Night: Eat well at this standing dinner ([tickets here](#)), where Japanese dishes by the city's finest (think sashimi, maki and sushi by

Tojo's, Zen, RawBar, Miku, Zakkushi) entice. For dessert, Bella Gelateria provides innovative gelatos honed to fit the theme. *Sunday, April 19th, 6:30 p.m.*

It's a beautiful life. —*Adrienne Matei*

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