

August 2, 2025

Mr. Daniel Humm
Chef and Owner
Restaurant Eleven Madison Park
New York, USA



Dear Mr. Humm,

At Eleven Madison Park on August 1, 2025

Yesterday, August 1st, 2025, I had the pleasure of enjoying an intriguingly unique plant-based dinner at Eleven Madison Park (The No.1 restaurant on the World's 50 Best Restaurants list in 2017), where the elegant atmosphere was subtly infused with a sense of quiet tension. The meal began with a single piece of bread, served as the first course—a rare and thoughtful composition.

In recent years, I have been visiting Las Vegas annually, and today I am writing this letter from my room on the 62nd floor of the Fontainebleau Hotel Las Vegas. Although I do not gamble myself, when I observe the casino floors of first-class hotels such as Bellagio and Wynn, I always sense an atmosphere of palpable tension.

In contrast, at third-rate private universities in Japan, a disturbingly casual and childish level of medical care—characterized by elementary-school-level talking such as “*chatte*,” “*chatte*”—is commonly practiced. At Juntendo University Hospital (1,051 beds) in Tokyo, a private medical institution, the following incidents were widely reported in the Japanese media:

- 1) After a cardiac surgery, when the patient's condition worsened, the patient's family requested that the surgeon, who was also a professor, examine the patient. Nevertheless, he never once visited the patient's hospital room post-surgery. [Reference: “Paper on June 8, 2019 (Japan)” on the academic website “chairperson.jp”]
- 2) A professor of internal medicine failed to provide an adequate explanation of the potential risks prior to a peroral cholangioscopy, resulting in the patient's sudden deterioration following the procedure and eventual death.

Chef, in Japan, there are many doctors who are not brilliant but rather mediocre. Some of them believe that low-tension, elementary-school-level conversation is sufficient for clinical practice. As a brilliant Doctor of Medical Science and a graduate of a national university myself, I have called upon the Japan Society for Medical Education, private Keio University (Tokyo), and others to undertake fundamental reforms in medical education. [Reference: “Paper on May 30, 2015 (Japan Society for Medical Education)” and “Paper on January 1, 2024 (Keio University, Japan)” on the academic website “chairperson.jp”]

It was my first time visiting Eleven Madison Park yesterday. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the restaurant's kind reply, dated July 26th, in response to the letter I had sent from Tokyo on July 8th. Although I was unfortunately unable to meet the Chef in person during the private kitchen tour, I still appreciated the experience. A similar situation occurred in the spring of 2023, when the Head Bartender of the Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur (2021 World Champion Bartender) respectfully declined the opportunity to meet me during my stay there. [Reference: "Paper on April 3, 2023 (Malaysia)" and "Paper on April 20, 2023 (Malaysia)" on the academic website "chairperson.jp"]



Chef Daniel Humm

Should there be an opportunity in the future for you to participate in an event held at a first-class hotel in Tokyo, I would be most grateful if I could have a brief conversation with you at that time.

At Eleven Madison Park, I noticed that Romanée-Conti was listed on the wine list. However, I was somewhat surprised that Opus One, which is often regarded as one of the finest wines produced in America, was not included. In contrast, at Don's Prime Restaurant—which was named the Best New Steakhouse in Las Vegas for 2024, and where I had dinner this evening in a spacious and fully booked dining room much like that of Eleven Madison Park—Opus One was at least featured on the menu. This contrast may suggest that each restaurant has its own direction. Unfortunately, during this visit, the Chef at Eleven Madison Park—just like the Head Bartender at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur on a previous occasion—did not immediately understand me or the "Chairperson Cocktail." That said, when it came to Romanée-Conti, a wine widely recognized as one of the finest in the world, the restaurant was clearly aware of its significance and ensured that it was appropriately covered.

Notably, Mr. Nobuhide TANI, who was named Japan's Best Sommelier in 2011, once remarked, "If you can identify Romanée-Conti in a blind tasting, you can become a world champion." Likewise, Mr. Shinya TASAKI, the 1995 World's Best Sommelier, has stated, "I probably can recognize it blind."

Thank you again, and I look forward to your continued success.

Sincerely,

Yukihisa Shida, M.D., Ph.D. from National Mie University (Japan)

Japanese Translation 日本語訳

昨日 2025 年 8 月 1 日は、ほのかに緊張感漂う Eleven Madison Park の上品な空間で、パン 1 個を最初の一皿として構成された、珍しい植物由来の Dinner を興味深くいただきました。

私近年 Las Vegas を毎年訪れていまして、本日は Fontainebleau Hotel Las Vegas の 62F 客室にてこのお手紙を記載しています。自分自身 Casino はしないのですが、Bellagio、Wynn などの一流 Hotel の Casino Floor を拝見しますと、やはり緊張感が漂っています。

その一方、日本の三流私立大学では「ちゃって」「ちゃって」と小学生 Level の緊張感のない医療を普段からしてみえまして、東京の私立順天堂大学附属病院（1,051 床）では、

- 1) 心臓外科手術後、患者の経過が良くなく、家族が執刀医である外科教授の診察を要請したにも関わらず、手術後一度もご自身の患者の病室を訪れなかった
- 2) 内科教授が、胆道鏡検査前の Risk 説明を十分に行わず、結果的に検査後患者の容態が急変し、死に至った

との医療事故が国内で大きく報道されています。

Chef。日本では、秀才と言われない凡才医師が、緊張感のない小学生 Level の診療で「大丈夫」と試してみえまして、私（国立大学医学博士、秀才）から、改めて日本医学教育学会、私立慶應義塾大学等へ医学教育の抜本的な見直しを求めていますところです。

昨日初めて訪れました Eleven Madison Park は、東京在住の私からお送りしました 7 月 8 日付 Letter に対しまして、7 月 26 日 Restaurant から丁寧なご返事をいただきまして有難うございました。残念ながら、結局厨房見学 Tour で Chef に直接お目に掛かることは叶いませんでしたが、2023 年春も、Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur の Head Bartender（2021 年世界 Champion Bartender）が、現地 Four Seasons Hotel 宿泊時に私と会われるのを遠慮されまして、将来的に東京の一流 Hotel での Event にいらっしゃる機会がありましたら、その際に少しお話を伺えれば幸いです。

なお Eleven Madison Park では、Wine List に Romane-Conti を拝見出来ました一方、America で 1 番とも言われる Opus One の品揃えがないのは意外でした。しかし、今晚 Eleven Madison Park と同じく広い店内満席の元 Dinner をいただきました don's Prime Restaurant（Best New Steakhouse 2024 in Las Vegas）は、逆に Opus One のみを Menu に載せてみえまして、Restaurant の方向性の違いなのでしょう。今回 Chef には、残念ながら Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur の Head Bartender と同じく、私と Chairperson Cocktail をすぐにはご理解いただけませんでした、「Romane-Conti が Blind で分かれば、世界 Champion になれます」（谷宣英 Sommelier、2011 年日本最優秀 Sommelier）、「私は多分 Blind で分かります」（田崎信也 Sommelier、1995 年世界最優秀 Sommelier）と言われる世界 Top の Romane-Conti につきましては、Restaurant が確実に Cover していらっしゃいました。

今後共、どうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。