



A Knife Like a Myth – The Strictly Limited Edition Shi Hou V Collectors' Knife by KAI



Mood image **Shi Hou V**

The new **Shi Hou V** by **KAI** is a fascinating collector's piece that embodies elegant form and the exceptional standards of Japanese forging craftsmanship. Strictly limited to just 77 pieces worldwide, this handcrafted edition impresses with an extraordinary, highly detailed design and premium-quality materials. Its characteristic Tantō blade shape establishes a strong connection to Samurai tradition, where it was used as a short sword. The 30 cm blade captivates with a combination of hammered finish and fine Damascus patterning, while the handle stands out visually thanks to its unique twisted spiral design. Each individual knife is further distinguished by a **hand-struck serial number**, the **Kanji for Shi Hou** (紫鳳), and the **KAI logo** on the end cap, making every piece a true **one-of-a-kind creation**.

The name Shi Hou translates as "Purple Phoenix". In Japanese art and poetry, this mythological creature symbolises good fortune and strength, as well as majesty and exquisite beauty. A name that perfectly underscores the exclusivity and distinctive aesthetics of this collector's knife. In Japan, the number seven also symbolises luck, protection, prosperity, harmony and new beginnings, and appears in many positive associations, such as the Seven Gods of Fortune (Shichi Fukujin). Repeated sevens – as seen in the edition size of the Shi Hou V – are considered particularly auspicious. In addition, the year 2026 is the Year of the Horse, which in the Chinese lunar calendar (also used in Japan) represents the seventh of the twelve zodiac signs. In Japanese culture, horses are regarded as a status symbol of the warrior elite and stand for honour and loyalty.

Produced using an innovative forging process, the distinctive long and straight Dual Core blade of the Tantō slicer features a striking hammered finish extending from the centre to the spine of the blade. The cutting edge displays fine Damascus patterning. The blade design was inspired by galactic nebulae – vast clouds of interstellar dust and gas found throughout the depths of outer space.

Another highlight is the expressive execution of the handle, including bolster and end cap. All three elements are crafted from Japanese SUS304 steel, featuring a matt finish on the handle body and a satin finish on the bolster and end cap. The handle surface is structured by **precisely executed helical openings**. This spiral form, inspired by galaxies in the universe, perfectly complements the blade design. The combination of material and form gives the handle a simultaneously robust yet airy, lightweight appearance. Two floral rosette ornaments, reminiscent of Indian mandalas, become visible through the openings inside and provide a deliberate accent within the modern aesthetic.



Two polished Corian inlays in a black quartz colourway, positioned next to the bolster and end cap, evoke a starry night sky and further emphasise the knife's galactic design character. The Kanji for Shi Hou (紫鳳), the KAI logo and the serial number on the end cap complete the overall visual composition.

The Tantō knife form was once a versatile weapon that evolved from a utilitarian object into an artistic artefact. Like the katana, it reflected the status and aesthetics of the Samurai, while also symbolising honour, modesty and readiness. After the era of the Samurai, the blade found its way into the modern kitchen.

The Shi Hou V is presented in a premium packaging solution equipped with a knife stand for elegant display. For safe transport outside the presentation box, a beautifully shaped, hand-stitched leather sheath is also included.

The strictly limited KAI Shi Hou V (BZ-0077, RRP €4,995.00 incl. VAT) is available from Autumn 2026.

About KAI:

For over 115 years, the KAI company has been producing cutlery in the tradition of the legendary samurai of ancient Japan. The desire to preserve ancient traditions and combine them with innovative techniques is not a contradiction but forms the basis for new products that honour the Japanese art of forging while meeting modern demands. With the highest quality standards, KAI has made it its mission to produce special knives for everyday use. Made from natural resources, shaped and designed according to the expertise of the ancient Samurai blacksmithing art, KAI products are a symbol of Japanese craftsmanship made with the highest precision.

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