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Widow of Benihana Founder Rocky Aoki Lists Manhattan Duplex for Nearly \$12 Million

The home is the combination of three units at Olympic Tower in Midtown and includes a living room overlooking Fifth Avenue



The widow of Benihana founder Hiroaki "Rocky" ...
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The widow of Benihana founder Hiroaki "Rocky" Aoki has listed her Midtown Manhattan duplex for \$11.95 million.

Keiko Aoki assembled three condo units at Olympic Tower, located at 645 Fifth Ave., into a 4,200-square-foot apartment with three bedrooms, a grand great room with floor-to-ceiling views and deeply coffered ceilings.

Keiko Aoki bought a 33rd-floor condo at the tower in 1979 and added two more after her marriage to Rocky Aoki in 2002, according to records accessed through PropertyShark.

The lower level is dedicated to the primary suite with an attached lounge, spanning nearly 1,200 square feet. The upper level features a great room and dining room that share a south-facing glass wall, with views that showcase the Empire State Building and Downtown Manhattan.

"It has amazing exposures on all four sides," said listing agent Frances Katzen at Douglas Elliman, who listed the apartment last week.

As a corner unit, there is also a living room with two walls of glass that overlooks the corner of Fifth Avenue and East 51st Street.

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The dark glassy Olympic Tower is a 51-floor mixed-use building designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in the 1960s. There are 226 condos across the upper 29 floors, with offices below that and street-level retail. “It is for the person who wants to be in the middle of everything,” Katzen said.

The apartment was previously listed in 2024 for \$16.6 million with another brokerage, but has not been on the market since early last year.

Keiko Aoki, an entrepreneur who ran Benihana for a time after her husband’s death, was not immediately available for comment.

As I set my eyes on the gorgeous facade of the Olympic Tower, I knew that’s where I’d have my office and home,” she [told](#) the Japan Times in a 2009 interview.

Rocky Aoki came to the U.S. as a college student and introduced teppanyaki-style Japanese cuisine—now known as hibachi—to the country with the very first Benihana restaurant in New York, named for his family’s coffeeshop in Tokyo. His flair for showmanship helped grow the restaurant into an enduring success known for the performance of its chefs as much as the food.

The Benihana founder had a hand in a number of other showy ventures—some which were less successful, including a seafood restaurant in Miami and frozen Japanese-inspired meals.

After Rocky Aoki died in 2008 at the age of 69, Keiko Aoki, his third wife, was locked in a legal dispute with his seven children from previous relationships over the family’s assets, [according to](#) news reports [and](#) court documents. A judge ruled in favor of the children in 2016, and the business was sold in 2024.

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