



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**GUEVARRA SERVES UP BEST COCKTAIL AT “TASTE”**

**HOTEL CHEFS’ COMPETE MAY 26**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – For having the best combination of flavor, flair, finesse, and crowd favoritism, Ronnie Guevarra of Coral Ocean Point Resort walked away from the 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden last Saturday (May 5) as this year’s crowned king of the Bartenders’ Cocktail Competition.

With his entry Beat d’Heat, Guevarra bested six other competitors to win the title before a panel of four judges and a lively crowd.

“Once again, the Bartenders’ Cocktail Competition drew a strong pool of competitors and an enthusiastic crowd of spectators and supporters,” said Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA). “We thank Northern Marianas Bartenders Association for joining the MVA in staging this popular competition again this year.”

This Saturday (May 26) executive chefs of major hotels vie for the coveted win of the annual Chefs’ Competition. This year’s theme is Marianas Roast Beef, featuring Certified Angus Beef.

Per tradition, the closing night of “Taste” will be extended an additional hour to 11 p.m.

The festivities kick off at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park. Local hotels and restaurants offer fine fare at a reasonable fare, with most dinner items at \$6 or less. Throughout the evening, live entertainment will be featured on the main stage, and arts and crafts will also be on sale.

This year's Bartenders' Competition was sponsored by Marpac, Burnett's Flavored Vodka, DFS Saipan, IT&E, Systems 4 You Total Cosmetics, Coca-cola, MDX Radio Club and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Ronnie Guevarra, fourth from right, walked away the winner of the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition on May 19, 2012, during the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Also pictured are fellow competitors and competition organizers.



Saipan Music & Dance perform Filipino dances during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 19, 2012, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The festival will hold its final night on May 26 from 6-11 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Seven competitors vied for the nod of judges at the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition held at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 19, 2012, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The annual festival is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and features food, live entertainment, and nightly competitions in celebration of May Tourism Month.



Food vendors serve up dinner with a smile during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 19, 2012, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The annual festival is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and features food, live entertainment, and nightly competitions in celebration of May Tourism Month.



Ataktak dancers perform at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 19, 2012, in Saipan.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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