



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**NECESITO TOPS "TASTE," AGAIN**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Saipan resident Simon Jed Necesito is getting his fill of this month's 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer, topping the Pie-eating Competition last Saturday (May 12), just one week after winning the youth division of the Hotdog Eating Competition for the second year in a row.

The Taste of the Marianas is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. throughout the month 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 was offered on the main stage while secondary entertainment and competitions will take place at the secondary stage.

This Saturday's (May 19) entertainment line-up will include Afetnas Regime, Ana Glushko Academy, Saipan Music & Dance, Tinatak Dancers, INATUAS, and Maikai. Also, the annual Bartenders' Cocktail Competition featuring flavor, flair, and festive costumes kicks off at 7 p.m. on the rear stage.

Joining Necesito in winners circle were 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher Andrew Jon Songsong and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher Seo Hyun Hwang, both of Saipan. The contenders won \$50, \$30, and \$20, respectively, for their pie-eating performance.

“This year, we offered our first Pie-eating Competition with apple pie,” said Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA). “We would like to extend our appreciation to Herman’s Bakery for co-sponsoring this and the hot dog eating event held on the first night of the Taste of the Marianas”

The Chefs’ Competition on May 26 will pit hotel chefs in a cook-off highlighting a select cut of Certified Angus Beef and local ingredients. Arts and crafts will also be on sale each evening.



Contestants in the Pie-eating Competition give it their best at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 12, 2012, in Saipan.



Post pie-eating at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 12, 2012, winners take a breather for a quick photo before collecting their cash prizes. From left are 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Simon Jed Necesito, 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner Andrew Jon Songsong, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner Seo Hyun Hwang. The festival is held every Saturday evening during May Tourism Month at American Memorial Park in Saipan.



Palauan dancers entertain the crowd during the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 12, 2012, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The festival will continue every Saturday evening at American Memorial Park throughout May Tourism Month.



Food vendors serve up dinner with a smile during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 5, 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.



Tasty island delicacies await the eager diner during the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 12, 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.



Arts and crafts from the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia can be found at the 14<sup>th</sup> Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival each Saturday evening in May 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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