



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release-May 10, 2012

For further information, contact:
Perry John P. Tenorio, Managing Director
Marianas Visitors Authority
Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237
mva@my Marianas.com
www.my Marianas.com

TASTE OF THE MARIANAS GETS COOKIN'

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The first weekend of the 14th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden got cookin' last Saturday (May 5), with 15 vendors serving up delectable dishes and last year's hotdog eating champ returning to reclaim his title.

"Last weekend's kick-off was a solid start to what we hope will be another great month of Taste of the Marianas," said Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA). "Whether you're looking for a quick dinner or a chance to catch up with friends, we encourage everyone to make the festival a part of their May Tourism Month celebration."

Festivities this Saturday (May 12) will feature the Pie-eating Competition at 8 p.m. Participants may register on site on a first-come, first-serve basis. The night's entertainment will include Green Meadow School, Koblerville Umang Glee Club, CAB Dancers, Alan la, W.S.R. Elementary MY WAVE Club, Sisters Forever, and Latte Vibe.

"Taste," as called by locals, will continue every Saturday evening 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.

Last Saturday, Simon Jed returned to the hotdog eating competition for competitors under age 18 to win first prize for the second year in a row, followed by Darwin Maura and Ju Won Jung. The three walked away three hotdogs full and \$50, \$30, and \$20 richer, respectively, for their efforts.

Not to be outdone, 10 adult competitors lined up an hour later for their chance at fame and fast cash. Walking away with the same prize package were Rob Epley of Saipan, Hyuk Kweon of Korea, and Gyu Hyung of Korea.

The rest of the month will feature the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition on May 19, while the Chefs' Competition on May 26 will pit hotel junior 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.



Gyu Hyung, right, of Korea demonstrates his winning style during the Hotdog Eating Competition on May 5, 2012, during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Hyung won \$20 cash placing third, after first place winner Rob Epley of Saipan and Hyuk Kweon of Korea.



Tipiyeew Dancers perform indigenous Carolinian dances during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 5, 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.



Ju Won Jung, Darwin Maura, and Simon Jed Necesito finished 3rd, 2nd, and 1st, respectively, in the Under-18 Hotdog Eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 5, 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.

###