



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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TASTE OF THE MARIANAS KICKS OFF

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden kicked off on Saturday (May 3) night, bringing some of the best of island cuisine and entertainment to American Memorial Park.

The event is held every Saturday evening beginning at 6 p.m. in May as part of the month-long celebration of Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands.

“It was a strong opening night,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We’ll be bringing in 300 additional seats this Saturday to accommodate the crowd.”

The MVA, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the National Park Service jointly hosted the annual event. The new location on the concrete pads at American Memorial Park has also resulted in less dust being stirred up and a better breeze through this year’s Taste site, according to Duenas.

Revelers joined two heats of the Hotdog Eating Competition, with Jae Hyun Lee clearly finishing first in the youth division, followed by David Yang in second place, and Miku Kimura rounding out the winners in third place by default, having the least remaining hotdogs of all remaining competitors. In the adult division, Raymond nabbed 1st place, Shawn Camacho chomped his way to second place, and island visitor Chang Sun Hong finished third.

Taste of the Marianas offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 16 hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales.

This week's Taste will feature the Pie-eating Competition at 8:00 p.m. on the rear stage with two heats for adults.



D'Elegance Cafe and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Furusato Restaurant and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Thai House and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Herman's Modern Bakery and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Cecilia K. Selepeo and Flowerpot Salas joined other artists who displayed and sold their wares on opening night of the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Jae Hyun Lee, right, ruled the youth heat of the Hotdog Eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, downing three hotdogs first. He was followed by David Yang, second from right, in second place, and Miku Kimura (not pictured) in third place.



Winners of the adult heat of the Hotdog Eating Competition take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. From left are Chang Sun Hong (3rd place), Shawn Camacho (1st place), and Raymond Emul (3rd place).



Saipan Awadoori Dancers performed at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Alana Ia performed Polynesian dance at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Alana Ia performed Polynesian dance at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

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 and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan via Guam. United States mainland connections can be made by United Airlines to Saipan via Guam, and Delta Airlines from the west coast to Saipan via Narita. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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