



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

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**Tourism is Everybody's Business!**

**PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO**  
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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

**TASTE OF THE MARIANAS WEEK 2 IS TWICE THE FUN**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden continued on Saturday (May 10) 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.

Revelers joined two heats of the Pie-eating Competition, stuffing their faces with custard pie donated by Herman's Modern Bakery. The first heat was won by John Umbay. Competing television celebrity Jing Lun Wong of Taiwan gave his best effort for the camera, but failed to place. In the second heat, the lone female place winner KayKay Reyes came in 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This Saturday's Taste will feature the Balloon Popping Competition at the rear stage. The heat for minors will start at 8 p.m., and the adult heat will start at 8:30 p.m.

The MVA, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the National Park Service jointly hosted the annual event. 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.



Sierra's Pearl Shakes and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 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.



Poon's Restaurant and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 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.



Tony Roma's/Capricciosa's and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 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.



Hyatt Regency Saipan and 15 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 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.



Dou Dou Chen of Wang Jing Corp., center, displays her homemade soap and other arts with crafts with other artists at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Jing Lun Wong of Taiwan's Star TV gives his best effort for the camera during the Pie-eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 10, 2014, downing three hotdogs first. At right is Armen Karapetyan, who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> Heat competition.



Winners of two heats of the Pie Eating Competition take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. From left are Jayson Camacho (3<sup>rd</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Heat), Jun Kiyagawa (3<sup>rd</sup> place, 1<sup>st</sup> Heat), John Umbay (1<sup>st</sup> place, 1<sup>st</sup> Heat), Simon Jed Necesito (1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Heat), KayKay Reyes (2<sup>nd</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Heat), and Armen Karapetyan (2<sup>nd</sup> place, 1<sup>st</sup> Heat).



Saipan Southern High School Chamorritas perform at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Pua Hinano perform Polynesian dance at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Saipan Southern Warriors perform Carolinian dance at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 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 Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Wuhan to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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