



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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TASTE OF THE MARIANAS A “BLAST”

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – A balloon popping competition delivered a “blast” at Saturday’s (May 17) 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at 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, delivering some of the best of island cuisine and entertainment.

Revelers joined two heats of the Balloon Popping Competition. The first heat for ages 14-and-under was won by Miku Kimura (1st place), Maya Shimuzu (2nd place), and Miles Timmons (3rd place), who all sat on balloons as quickly as possible to discover the winning tickets. The second heat challenged competitors ages 15-and-up to inflate and pop five balloons the fastest. In the second heat, Wheng Javan finished first, followed by Rustine Valico in 2nd, and Ezeth Smith in 3rd.

This Saturday’s (May 24) Taste will feature the Bartenders’ Cocktail Competition at 8 p.m at the secondary stage.

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.



Mariana Resort & Spa 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 17, 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.



Tropical Chilla's 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 17, 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.



Canton 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 17, 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.



Participants of the Balloon Popping Competition for ages 14-and-under take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Seated from left are 1st place winner Miku Kimura and 2nd place Maya Shimizu. Standing second from left is 3rd place winner Miles Timmons.



Participants of the Balloon Popping Competition for ages 15-and-up during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Participants of the Balloon Popping Competition for ages 15-and-up during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Seated from left are 1st place winner Wheng Javan, 2nd place winner Rustine Valico, and 3rd place Ezeth Smith.



CAB Dancers perform Palauan dance during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Teka Naha Nui performs Polynesian dance during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 2014, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Teka Naha Nui performs Polynesian dance during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 17, 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.

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