



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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17TH ANNUAL TASTE OF THE MARIANAS IN MAY TOURISM MONTH
Last Year to Use Yellow Tokens

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) –The 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday evening in Saipan during May 2015 in celebration of Tourism Month.

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has confirmed 15 vendors for the event at American Memorial Park, which features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. The festival will be held from 6-10 p.m. each Saturday (closing at 11 p.m. on the final night).

“Taste of the Marianas will return again in May with the same great food and excitement,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We’re looking forward to welcoming visitors and residents, alike, for this annual celebration of tourism, our most important industry here in the Northern Marianas.”

This will also be the last year to use the yellow \$1 tokens, which began being phased out last year for accounting purposes. The old yellow token is being replaced with the new green \$1 token.

“This will be the last year to use *yellow* \$1 tokens at the Taste of the Marianas,” said

Duenas. “Patrons are encouraged to use all their yellow tokens with their purchases throughout the month. On the same note, at the token booth this year we will be issuing only the new \$1 green tokens and the continuing \$2 blue tokens.”

Participating vendors will be Canton Restaurant, Coral Ocean Point Resort, D’Elegance Café, Fiesta Resort, Furusato Restaurant, Herman’s Modern Bakery, Hula Girl, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Sierra’s Pearl Shake, Thai House Restaurant, Tony Roma’s/Capricciosa, and Tropical Chill.

May Tourism Month will also be marked by the semi-annual Tourism Industry Cleanup led by Japan Saipan Travel Association on April 29, 2015, before Japan’s Golden Week holiday and an official proclamation of the month by Governor Eloy Inos on the same day. Residents are also encouraged to show their support by observing “Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit” Islandwear Fridays and trying their luck with Tourism Trivia at participating radio stations.



File photo of the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden. The 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas will be held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park, Saipan.



Patrons are encouraged to spend their yellow \$1 tokens at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas in May 2015. Yellow tokens are being taken out of circulation and will not be accepted after this year's festival.

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 daily flights from Seoul and Busan and Jeju Air provides daily service from Seoul. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, 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. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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