



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**PIE-EATING COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS TASTE**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Three pie-eating competitions highlighted the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Saturday (May 14) night.

The event, bringing some of the best of island cuisine and entertainment to American Memorial Park, 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.

Attacking fresh apple pies from Herman's Modern Bakery, Simon Necesito, Andrew Songsong, and Brian Murphy finished 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively in the adult heat of the competition. In the heat for ages 14-17, Luther Lizama, Colin Ramsey, and Lyn Ladrangan finished 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Consuming mini pies in the youngest heat for ages 10-13, Conall Hartig, Thomas Benavente, and Christina Kim finished 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively. All winners received cash prizes.

“The pie-eating competition was exciting for both the participants and the spectators,” said MVA Community Specialist Ryan Calvo, coordinator of the nightly competitions. “We’re looking forward to even greater crowd enthusiasm on the next two nights.”

This Saturday's (May 21) Taste of the Marianas will feature the Northern Mariana Islands Bartenders' Association Cocktail Competition beginning at 7p.m.

Taste of the Marianas offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 17 hotels,

restaurants, and drink vendors; non-stop live entertainment on the main stage; nightly contests on the secondary stage; and arts and crafts sales. Participating vendors are: Coral Ocean Point Resort, D'Elegance, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Furusato Restaurant, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hula Girl, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Matty's BBQ, Sierra's Pearl Shakes, Thai House Restaurant, Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Tropical Chill, Pacific Trading Co., Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., and Northern Marianas Bartenders Association.



Tony Roma's and 16 other food and beverage vendors, including other members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, served up dinner and dessert on May 14, 2016, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



D'Elegance Restaurant and 16 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on May 14, 2016, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Fiesta Resort & Spa and 16 other food and beverage vendors joined the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2016, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Kanoa Resort joined the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2016, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



Artists and craftspeople displayed and sold their wares on May 14, 2016, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Conall Hartig, second from right, ruled the Ages 10-13 heat of the Pie Eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 14, 2016. He was followed by Thomas Benavente, fourth from right, and Christina Kim, second from left, in third place.



Luther Lizama, third from right, ruled the Ages 14-17 heat of the Pie Eating Competition, in first place, at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 14, 2016. He was followed by Colin Ramsy, second from left, in second place and Lyn Ladrangan, second from right, in third place.



Winners and contenders are in good spirits following the Pie Eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May 14, 2016. Simon Necesito, fourth from left, finished first.



Ten participants joined the adult heat of the Pie Eating Competition on May 14, 2016, at Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.



Polynesian dance troupe Pua Hinano performs at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2016, in Saipan.



Ana Glushko Academy performs at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2016, in Saipan.



A guest troupe from Beijing China performs at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 14, 2016, 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 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](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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