



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MARIANAS CHEF COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS RIB EYE ON MAY 18

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Rib eye takes center stage in the Marianas Chef Competition slated for Saturday (May 18) at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival in Saipan, The Marianas.

The cook-off at American Memorial Park will challenge 10 chefs to prepare the best rib eye steak dish within an hour, incorporating all local produce provided in a mystery box, beginning at 7 p.m. Rules and registration forms are available at <https://www.my Marianas.com/taste-of-the-marianas-2024/> and at the MVA offices in Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Entertainment for the night on the main stage includes Project Vibe at 5 p.m., Alallis Cultural Dancers at 5:30 p.m., Glushko's Dance Academy at 6 p.m., Daegum Flute South Korea at 7 p.m., Sky Syllabus of Japan at 7:30 p.m., Hide Tide at 8:30 p.m., Flores Sinser at 9 p.m., and CAB Dancers at 9:30 p.m.

“We’re expecting some steep competition and some interesting trades secrets to be revealed on Saturday as competitors strive to deliver the best rib eye steak,” said MVA Acting Managing

Director Martin Duenas. “Come on down and watch our local cooks and chefs in action at another great night at ‘Taste.’”

At last Saturday’s (May 11) Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge, professional eater Sang Hyuk Kwon of Korea bested food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi of Japan and local competitors in eating the most of two pounds of boneless BBQ chicken, two eight-ounce BBQ steaks, six pieces of BBQ pork spareribs, eight strips of BBQ pork belly, four BBQ hot links sausage, two pounds of red rice, two pounds of macaroni salad, two pounds of papaya coco.

The HANMI-NMTEch Pastry Chef Competition will be held on May 25.

Taste of The Marianas is being every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park in the main tourist district of downtown Garapan. The festival features dishes from 29 local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, food eating competitions, cooking contests, arts and crafts sales, and more.

Food and drink vendors accept credit/debit cards. Tokens are also accepted and may be purchased at the festival or the Marianas Visitors Authority office at 3366 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, from 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays). Cash transactions with vendors is prohibited.

This year’s festival eateries include 38 Mitsubachi, Cup Bab Korean Restaurant, Ben-Ki, Yaya’s Baked Goods, CK Smokehouse and Salad, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Fork and Spoon, Great Harvest Bread Co., Herman’s Modern Bakery, Lanlan Tea House, Island Grindz, Java Joe’s, Kanto 10, Kinpachi, Loco & Taco, Tupu Cane Juice, New Matty’s BBQ, Oh My Grill, Surf Club, T-Bar, The Hut, Vi- Lyn’s BBQ, Saipan World Resort, Ever Trust 123 Food, Coral Ocean Resort Saipan (May 18 only), MARPAC, Napu Brewing, and WSTCO.

Festival Gold Sponsors are American Memorial Park, Bridge Capital LLC and Dave Electronics Center. Silver Sponsors are Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, EST Rental, IT&E, HANMI, Jonny’s Bar and Grill, M&C LLC, Lanlan Tea House, Subway, Coca-Cola, and Foremost.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or at 1.670.664.3200.



Kinpachi Restaurant and 28 other food and drink vendors serve customers at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 11, 2024, at American Memorial Park in Garapan, Saipan. The festival is held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month featuring arts & crafts, food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, and more.



Oh My Grill (OMG) prepares ribs for the Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge held at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 11, 2024, at American Memorial Park in Garapan, Saipan. The festival is held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month featuring arts & crafts, food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, and more.



Sang Hyuk Kwon of Korea, second left, bests four other competitors in the Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge held at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 11, 2024, at American Memorial Park in Garapan, Saipan. The contest challenged five competitors to finish a 12-lb. platter of Marianas-style barbecue.



The Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge is held at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 11, 2024, at American Memorial Park in Garapan, Saipan. The Marianas Chef Competition will be held on May 18, 2024.



The 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival is held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, Saipan, featuring arts & crafts, food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, and more.



Te Kanuhau Nui performs at the 25th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 11, 2024, at American Memorial Park in Garapan, Saipan. The festival is held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month featuring arts & crafts, food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, and more.

The Marianas is an archipelago of 14 islands - including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota - in the Western Pacific. The Marianas are home to indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people, as well as over 20 different ethnicities from around the world who live and work in this harmonious tropical paradise. Ancient latte stone limestone monoliths, traditional nature-based ocean navigation not reliant on modern technology, and a culture seasoned by East and West influences are just a few of the experiences found in The Marianas, where pristine sea, sand, and skies are only a 3–4-hour flight from major Asian gateway cities. From South Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way provide direct flights to Saipan from Seoul-Incheon. United Airlines flies three times a week from Tokyo-Narita, Japan, and daily from Guam. Hong Kong Airlines flies twice weekly from Hong Kong. Interisland travel between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is provided by Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com, Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.

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