

## MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY News Release

## Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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## THE HUT BURRITO CHALLENGE ON MAY 5 AT "TASTE"

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Can you eat a 5 lb. burrito? Can you be the fastest of five people to do so in under 20 minutes?

Those are the questions to be answered at this Saturday's (May 5) opening night of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at American Memorial Park.

The Hut Burrito Challenge will task adult competitors to be the first to finish a whooping burrito of tortilla, cheese, sour cream, guacamole, salsa, beef, pork, and/or chicken. If any contender is able to complete the challenge, the grand prize will be a Samsung S7 from IT&E and \$50 in Taste tokens. It will be a "winner takes all" challenge.

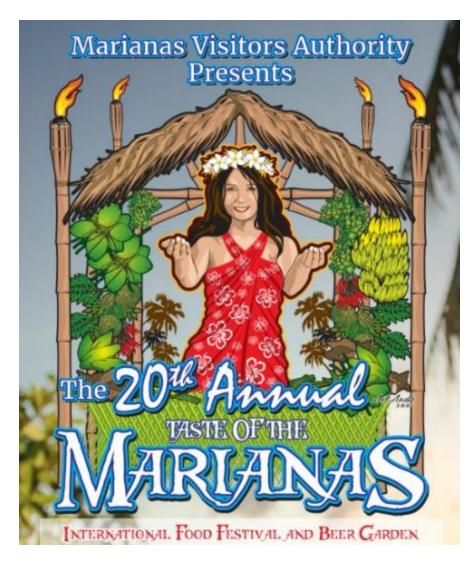
Participants must register at the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) office in San Jose by 4 p.m. Friday (May 4).

The Taste of The Marianas is an annual signature event of the MVA held every Saturday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. (closing at 11 p.m. on the final night) during May Tourism Month at American Memorial Park in Garapan, Saipan. Saturday's opening ceremony will be held at 5:15 p.m.

"We are looking forward to welcoming our visitors and the community for another great Taste of The Marianas this month," said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. "Taste' is one the most highly-anticipated festivals of the year, and we continue to work to make it more enjoyable year after year. If you have not yet been to Taste, make this your year!"

Japan's famous female food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi will join the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 19, 2018, taking on all local and international challengers in the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition. Applications are available at the MVA office on Beach Rd. in San Jose. Masubuchi is a famed competitive eater and holds numerous records in Japan. She is well-known in Japan as a famous TV personality, model, actress and a beauty contestant.

Participating food vendors will be Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Furusato Restaurant, Kinpachi Restaurant, Matty's BBQ, D'Elegence Restaurant, The Hut, Herman's Modern Bakery, Thai House, Terry's Snack Bar, Sierra Pearl Shake, and Tropical Chills. Participating drink vendors will be MARPAC, Pacific Trading Co, and Saipan Brewing Co.



The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of The Marianas will be held every Saturday during May Tourism Month from 5:30-10 p.m. at American Memorial Park, Saipan.



The Hut Burrito Challenge will be held at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 5, 2018, at American Memorial Park, Saipan. Registration may be made at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Beach Road, San Jose, by 4 p.m. on May 4, 2018.

The Marianas are a chain of idyllic islands including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the Western 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 looking for new travel discoveries will find them in The Marianas, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four to five from other parts of Asia and Australia. The Marianas are served daily from Tokyo-Narita in Japan by Delta Air Lines with seasonal flights by Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air, and T'Way provide direct flights from Seoul-Incheon, and Asiana also provides service from Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong to Saipan are available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from six cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made to Saipan via Tokyo-Narita, Seoul-Incheon or Guam. Visitors from Russia and Taiwan usually arrive via Seoul, Tokyo or Manila. Interisland travel to Rota and Tinian is provided by United Express (Cape Air) and Star Marianas Air. For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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