

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY News Release

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For Immediate Release- August 18, 2021 For further information, contact: Priscilla M. lakopo, Managing Director Marianas Visitors Authority Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237 info@mymarianas.com www.mymarianas.com

BUNUELOS EATING CONTEST AT TASTE OF THE MARIANAS

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Craving "kamuti" (sweet potato)? The 22nd Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Aug. 27 will feature a "bunuelos kamuti" eating contest on its final night.

The annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) will be held at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan and features international cuisines, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales. The festival will begin at 4 p.m. on the first day (Aug. 27) and at 5 p.m. on Aug. 28 & 29, ending at 10 p.m. on all three days. Twenty food and two beverage vendors are confirmed for the festival.

The contest is open to the first 10 registrants ages 18 and older and challenges participants to eat the most "bunuelos kamuti" in 30 minutes or to be the first to finish 4 lbs. of the deep-fried dessert.

The event will also feature the Kadun Pka Cooking Contest on Aug. 27 and the Eskabeche Cooking Contest on Aug. 28. Registration forms are available on The Marianas Calendar at <u>www.mymarianas.com</u>, and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Kadun pika is stewing chicken with a healthy dose of garlic and other seasoning, including donne, the potent local hot pepper. Eskabeche is fish dish with a vinegar-based sauce and fresh vegetables.

"Registration for all contests is still open, and we encourage all chefs and cooks to sign up today for chance to share their talent and win some great cash prizes," said MVA Managing Director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. "Planning for Taste is proceeding smoothly with our Community Projects team. We want to assure the public that we will be expanding the festival grounds to allow more social distancing. We're looking forward to a great event and ask everyone's cooperation with the COVID protocols that will be enforced at this year's event."

There will be two points of entry at the north and south sides of Garapan Fishing Base, and all attendees must undergo a temperature check, and wear a wristband at the event. Vendors will accept both Taste of The Marianas tokens or cash; however, tokens will not be sold this year.

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



The 22nd Annual Taste of The Marianas will be hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority on August 27-29, 2021, at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan.

For more information on The Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com, Facebook/VisitTheMarianas, or Instagram @themarianas.