



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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OH MY GRILL (OMG) INT'L FOOD CHALLENGE AT "TASTE" ON MAY 11 TO FEATURE KOREAN AND JAPANESE CELEBRITY EATERS

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – 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...and one hour to finish it first.

This Saturday (May 11) the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival in Saipan, The Marianas will feature the Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge, pitting local and international competitors against each other and the clock in a bid to finish an entire Marianas-style BBQ platter within one hour. Winner takes all with the first finisher walking away with \$1,000 cash.

Professional food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi, a perennial champion of "Taste" food challenges several times in the past, returns to take on professional eater Sang Hyuk Kwon of Korea. Defending the home turf will be Jeremy Rother, Bob Liu, and Michael Ma. Rother downed

five footlongs in an hour in last Saturday's (May 4) Subway Sandwich Challenge, with Liu and Ma following in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.

Taste of The Marianas will be held 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.

Entertainment for the night on the main stage includes Big Jay at 5 p.m., Tipiyeew Bwibwis at 5:30 p.m., Marianas High School Micronesian Cultural Club at 6 p.m., Te Kanahau Nui at 6:30 p.m., Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge at 7 p.m., Helen Kim at 8 p.m., Profound Bandits at 8:15 p.m., Black Sands at 8:30 p.m., Revolutionaries at 9 p.m., and Tattoo at 9:30 p.m.

For those wanting a behind-the-scenes look into Marianas food prep, a cooking demonstration and sampling of "potu" – a sweet rice steamed bun – will be held on the secondary stage from 5:30-7 p.m. and "bunuelos" – similar to a deep fried donut – from 8-9:30 p.m. Also, the Tinian Mayor's Office will demonstrate the roasting of a whole cow, with free samples while supplies last.

"The Taste of The Marianas just keeps getting better and better. With our two celebrity food fighters competing against three of our top Subway Sandwich Challenge contestants, we expect this Saturday to be an extraordinary show, hands down," said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Food challenges have become increasingly popular around the world, and having influencers from our two largest source markets of Korea and Japan competing head-to-head at the Taste only adds to our appeal as a gourmet destination. We extend our thanks to our partners at Oh My Grill (OMG) for their support of this competition and look forward to an amazing night of fun and entertainment."

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.

Registration is still open for the Marianas Chef Competition on May 18. The cook-off will challenge 10 chefs to prepare the best beef rib eye steak dish within an hour, incorporating all local

produce provided in a mystery box. Rules and registration forms are available at <https://www.mymarianas.com/taste-of-the-marianas-2024/> and at the MVA offices in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The HANMI-NMTech Pastry Chef Competition will be held on May 25. All contests start at 7 p.m.

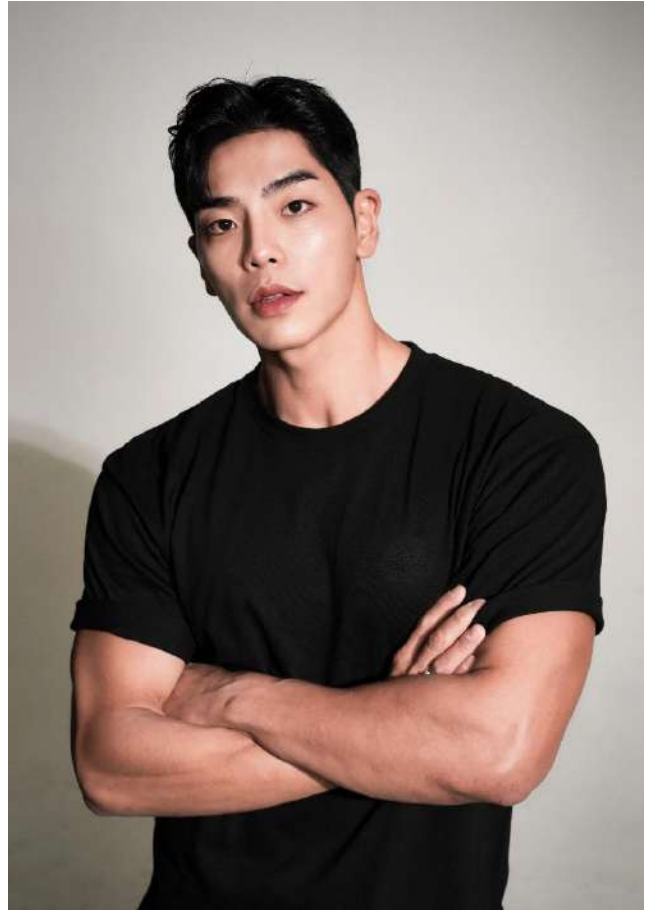
This year's festival eateries will include 38 Mitsubachi, Cup Bab Korean Restaurant, Ben-Ki, Yaya's Baked Goods, CK Smokehouse and Salad, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Fork and Spoon, Great Harvest Bread Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, Lanlan Tea House, Island Grindz, Java Joe's, Kanto 10, Kinpachi, Loco & 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, Aqua Resort Club, Pacific Islands Club and Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, 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.



Acting Governor David M. Apatang of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands welcomes festivalgoers to the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Professional eaters Sachiyo Masubuchi, left, of Japan and Sang Hyuk Kwon of South Korea will face off against local competitors in the Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024. The one-hour contest starts at 7 p.m. at American Memorial Park.



The Hut serves patrons at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks from 29 vendors, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Surf Club serves ribs, lasagna, and more at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks from 29 vendors, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Aqua Resort Club represents the Hotel Asso. of the Northern Mariana Islands on the first night of the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks from 29 vendors, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



T Bar tantalizes the taste buds at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Cup Bab offers Korean cuisine at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Saipan World Resort joins the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



38mitsubachi welcome patrons during the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Mark McDonald and other contestants tackle five footlongs during the Subway Sandwich Challenge at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Jeremy Rother comes in right under the clock to finish five footlongs in under one hour during the Subway Sandwich Challenge at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. Rother, along with 2nd place finisher Bob Liu and 3rd place finisher Michael Ma, will move on to the Oh My Grill (OMG) International Food Challenge against competitors from Japan and Korea on May 11 at the festival.



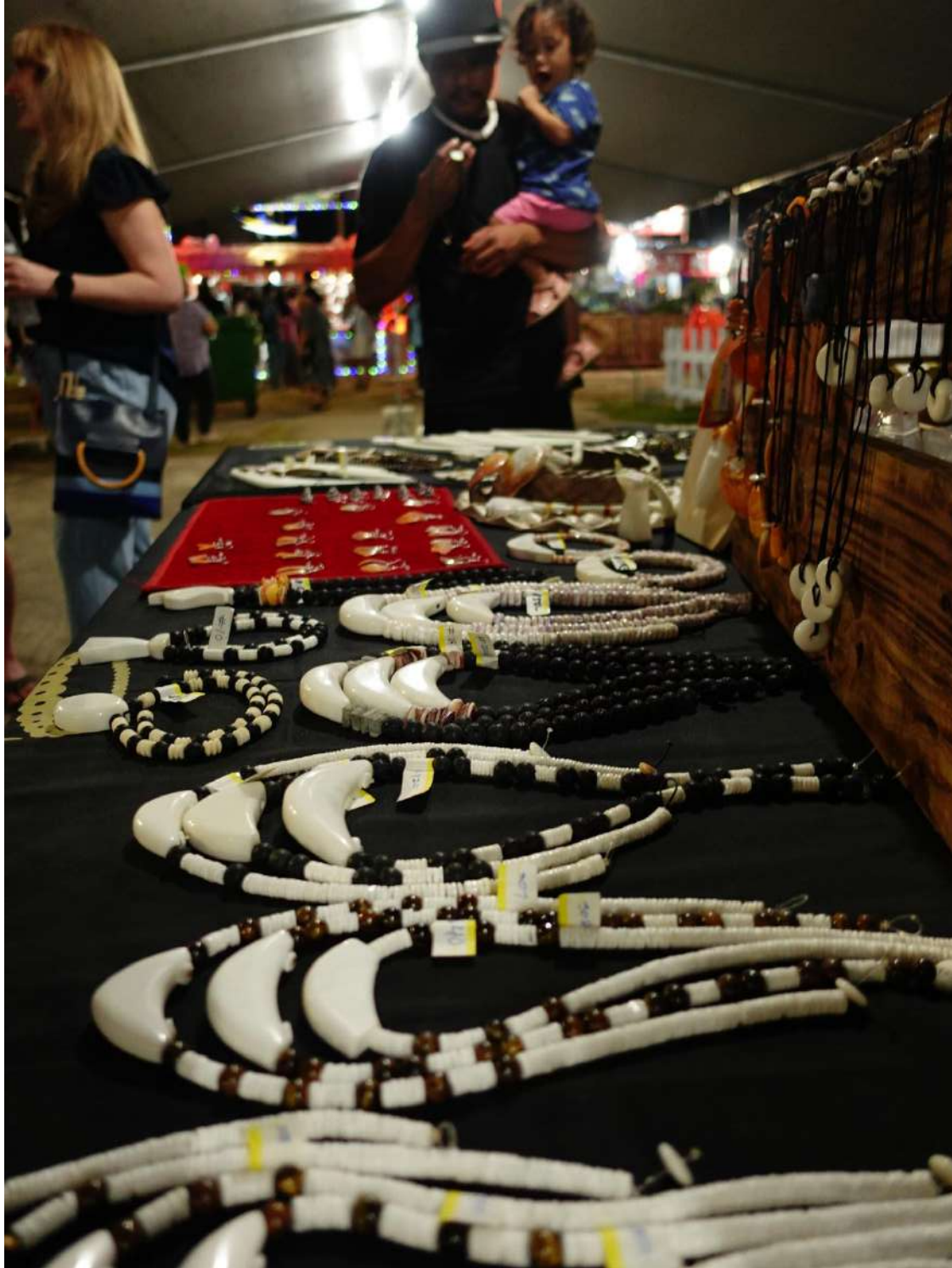
Ace Elamato, right, opens the stage at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Poksai Guma Chamorro performs at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



Saipan Awaodori performs at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival on May 4, 2024, in Saipan, The Marianas. The festival will be held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month at American Memorial Park, featuring food and drinks, live entertainment, nightly contests, arts and crafts, and more.



The 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival held every Saturday evening during May Marianas Tourism Month in Saipan, The Marianas features 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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