



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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

TASTE OF THE MARIANAS FOOD FESTIVAL SETS CONTESTS

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The 23rd Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in June 2022 in Saipan is now accepting applicants for a number for contests highlighting local food.

This year's festival will be held from 5-10 p.m. on June 18, 19, 24, 25, & 26, at Garapan Fishing Base. Contestants may now register in-person only at the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) office on Beach Rd. in San Jose for the Kadun Pika Cooking Contest on June 18, the Eskabeche Eating Contest on June 19, and the Sukiyaki Eating Contest on June 25. Contests are open to ages 18 and older.

“The Taste of The Marianas is one of the largest annual festivals in The Marianas, highlighting local favorites and international dishes and entertainment,” said MVA Managing Director Priscilla M. Iakopo. “We invite everyone interested to sign up for our contests this year, and we look forward to celebrating a great festival with all our visitors, including visitors here for the Pacific Mini Games.”

The Marianas Jr. Chef Challenge will also be held on June 26.

The Kadun Pika Cooking Contest starts at 5:30 p.m. on June 18. Cash prizes are \$500 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, \$150 for 3rd place, and \$100 for 4th place. Teams are limited to 1 or

2 persons. Participants must provide their own gas stove, pots, ingredients, and other equipment. The MVA will provide one family-size bag of stewing chicken and an 8 ft. table. Chicken may be picked up on June 17 at the MVA office before 5 p.m. All cooking must be done at the site. Entries will be judged based on Taste/Flavor, Tenderness, Balance of Spiciness, and Presentation.

The Eskabeche Cooking Contest starts at 5:30 p.m. on June 19. Cash prizes are \$500 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place, \$150 for 3rd place, and \$100 for 4th place. Teams are limited to 1 or 2 persons. Participants must provide their own gas stove, pots, ingredients, and other equipment. The MVA will provide one parrot fish and an 8 ft. table. Parrot fish must be picked up on June 17 at the MVA office before 5 p.m. All cooking must be done at the site. Entries will be judged based on Taste/Flavor, Tenderness, Use of Coconut Milk and Vegetables, and Presentation.

The Sukiyaki Eating Contest will be held at 8 p.m. on June 25 at the festival main stage. Participants will be challenged to be the first to finish 5 lbs. of sukiyaki within 30 minutes to win \$500 cash.

The Taste of The Marianas is an annual signature event of the MVA and will feature affordable dishes from local eateries, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales. Entry is free.

For rules, registration forms, or more information, visit the MVA office or contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or 1.670.664.3200.



FILE One of the Kadun Pika Cook-off entries at the 21st Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 4, 2019, at American Memorial Park, Saipan. The 23rd Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan on June 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26, 2022.

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. The Marianas is the first destination with a travel bubble agreement with South Korea, with direct flights from Seoul-Incheon and Busan. United Airlines flies daily from Guam. Interisland travel to Rota and Tinian 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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