

MEDIA CONTACTS:

KTCpr Theresa M. Oakes / <u>T.Oakes@KTCpr.com</u> Leigh-Mary Hoffmann / <u>LM.Hoffmann@KTCpr.com</u> Telephone: 516-594-4100 #1142

CHTA GIVES CONSUMERS A 'TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN' WITH ANNUAL CULINARY EVENT IN MIAMI

Lunch, Dinner Plus Taste of The Islands Festival

MIAMI, FL (May 5, 2016) – The flavors of the Caribbean will be on full display at this year's Taste of the Caribbean (#CHTATaste2016) taking place at the Hyatt Regency Miami, June 6 – 10, 2016. Consumers will have the opportunity to savor Caribbean creations at lunch and dinner as well as embrace the culture of the participating countries at the *Taste of the Islands* festival.

Presented by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), Taste of the Caribbean is an annual event that highlights the art of Caribbean cooking as it brings together top chefs and bartenders from the region to compete for honors in a variety of food and beverage competitions.

Competition meals will be prepared by culinary teams from Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Curacao, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Attendees can also watch as teams go head to head in the *Caribbean Culinary Team Lunch Challenge*. Taking place from 12 - 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, the lunch will include threecourse meals paired with wines and prepared by teams from Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, Jamaica, Suriname and Turks and Caicos. Tickets for the competition lunch are US\$55 per person.

Food enthusiasts can further satiate their palates on June 8 at the *Caribbean National Teams Culinary Competition Dinner* featuring three-course meals paired with wines prepared by teams from Anguilla, Curacao, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Maarten / St. Martin, Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Tickets for the competition dinner, taking place from 7 - 8:30 p.m., are US\$55.

Consumers can also attend *Taste of the Islands*, taking place Thursday, June 9, where they will experience the culture of the Caribbean while sampling a variety of gourmet appetizers and desserts and tasting signature cocktails in an energetic atmosphere featuring authentic Caribbean music. In addition to exhibits from each of the 13 competing countries, there will also be a number of Caribbean restaurants and other providers of Caribbean food and beverages on display, including several craft breweries — a new addition to the program for 2016 and a sure-to-be-welcomed feature to beer lovers and those looking to explore new tastes.

Representatives from various Caribbean tourist boards will be available to share information and explain the unique offerings of the various islands.



Last year's Taste of the Islands festival was a huge draw for consumers

The Taste of the Islands festival will take place Thursday, June 9 from 7 - 9 p.m. Tickets are US\$60 per person and consumers can purchase via <u>https://chtataste.eventbrite.com</u>.

Consumers can purchase tickets for both the *Competition Lunch* and *Competition Dinner* events on Wednesday, June 8 for US\$105 per person. Another package option for consumers is purchasing tickets for the *Competition Lunch*, *Competition Dinner* and *Taste of the Islands* festival for US\$150 per person.

Taste of the Caribbean is staged by CHTA in conjunction with host sponsors *Interval International* and *JetBlue Getaways*, event sponsor *Clear Channel Airport Division*, and event and product sponsor *Certified Angus Beef*. For additional information about Taste of the Caribbean, email <u>events@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com</u> or visit <u>http://www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com</u>, <u>https://twitter.com/CHTAfeeds</u> and <u>http://www.Facebook.com/CHTATasteoftheCaribbean</u>.