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Luau BBQ Pork, Meatball Bangers and Count Hopula Tantalize Taste. Buds at Chandler's Culinary Festival.

Chandler, Arizona (October 24, 2011)—Hungry foodies flocked to TASTE. Chandler's Culinary Festival on Saturday, October 15th to enjoy a smorgasbord of culinary perfection from the best Chandler area restaurants. TASTE. Chandler's Culinary Festival featured an abundance of delightful treats including fresh sushi from Shimogamo and The Sushi Room, chicken satay skewers from Thai Dressing and white truffle hummus with pita bread from Iguana Mack's. Some of the fan favorite highlights of the day included luau bbq pork with Hawaiian jalapeno slaw from Yoli's Café, frozen treats from Paletas Betty and meatball bangers from Irish Republic.

Patrons found refuge from the heat in the TASTE. Experience Lounges where air conditioning and live entertainment attracted hundreds of fans. Each of the three tents provided a unique vibe and exclusive drinks. In the Brewmaster Craft Beer Lounge, acoustic music from Chris Buzan, chair massages and SanTan Brewing Company's Count Hopula on draft stole the show. Over in the Reserve Wine Lounge, the smooth sounds of the Vandal Hancock Duo, bruschetta and chilled wine set a more sophisticated tone. But the real party animals found themselves enjoying flavorful cocktails, DJ Guy Owens spinning fresh beats and the company of former Arizona Cardinals player, Michael Bankston, in the Mix & Mingle Spirits Lounge.

TASTE. Chandler's Culinary Festival attendees had the chance to vote for their favorite restaurants in the Best of TASTE. competition rating them on a scale from 1-3 based on taste, originality and presentation. Hands down, the overall **Best of TASTE.** was awarded to [Yoli's Café](#) with [AJ's Café](#) and [Coach & Willie's](#) receiving honorable mention for superior flavor and presentation. Other category winners include:

- American – [The Keg](#)
- Asian – [Shimogamo](#)
- Casual Café – [Yoli's Café](#)
- Dessert – [Paletas Betty](#)
- Italian – [NYPD Pizza](#)
- Mexican – [Dos Gringos](#)
- Sports Bar – [Irish Republic](#)
- Winery – [Kokopelli Winery & Bistro](#)

Be sure to stop by your favorite restaurants and congratulate them on the win!

Overall, patrons were in good spirits and enjoyed fun, food and festivities among friends at TASTE. Chandler's Culinary Festival. Professionally produced by HDE Agency, TASTE. Chandler's Culinary Festival is sponsored by Western State Bank, Big Two Toyota, Chandler Center for the Arts, Local First Arizona, Alliance Beverage Distribution, Yelp, Le Cordon Bleu, Gangplank, SanTan Sun News, Into the Soup and Local Dines. A portion of the proceeds from TASTE. Chandler's Culinary Festival benefit the Downtown Chandler Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity.

Until next year, keep it TASTE-Y. For more information, event photos and to learn how you can get involved in next year's TASTE. Chandler's Culinary Festival, visit us online at www.tastechandler.com and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tastechandler.