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Winners of the 2024 KTA Super Stores Recipe Contest Announced

Kona, Hawaii – The rich flavors of Kona coffee took center stage as KTA Super Stores announced the winners of this year’s Kona Coffee Cultural Festival Recipe Contest. This celebrated event brought together culinary talents from professional, amateur, culinary students and keiki who used Kona coffee as their inspiration to create unforgettable dishes and desserts, showcasing the versatility and unique flavor of Hawaii’s most iconic coffee.

Held as part of the annual Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, the contest drew nearly twenty culinary wizards eager to display their creative twists on traditional recipes. Judged by a panel of culinary experts and community leaders, this year’s entries ranged from savory creations to decadent desserts, all crafted with one common ingredient – locally grown, 100% Kona coffee.

And the Winners Are...

Professional Division

The **Savory Category** was won by Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa Chef Don Baker, who created a “Spicy Ahi” entry with smokey notes of Kona coffee, blackened spices together with fresh island flavors.

In the **Sweet Category**, Melina Ramirez of Kohanaiki took first place with her “Fudgy Coffee Caramel Brownies, a decadent Kona coffee fudgy brownie dusted with cocoa and topped with chocolate ganache.

Amateur Division

The **Savory Category** was won by Deborah McGuire, who created a “Kona Coffee Island Style Fried Rice”, a delicious take on an island favorite. This winning savory recipe showcases a garden of bright vegetables along with marinated fresh chicken, sprinkled with green onions and ready to serve.

With the sudden passing of Carol Dorsey, her friend and neighbor Noriko Donna stepped in and agreed to prepare Carol’s recipes and entered “Kona Coffee Opera Cake” in her memory. This delectable cake took first place in the **Sweet Category** Amateur Division.

HCC Palamanui Culinary Student Division

In the **Sweet Category**, Scott Largent took first place with his “Kona Coffee Crunch Cheesecake” an imaginative cheesecake with crumbled Oreo cookie crust.

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Keiki Snack Division

Keiki Snack Ages 13 to 18

Konawaena High School student Sophia Mastroleo captured first place with her “Kona Coffee Olive Oil Cupcakes”, a moist and delicious take on the much-loved cupcake movement.

Keiki Snack Ages 7 to 12

Makua Lani student Vrhel Lambert won first place with “Kona Coffee Crème Brulee.”

A Celebration of Kona Coffee and Culinary Creativity

The KTA Super Stores Kona Coffee Recipe Contest is an annual highlight for the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival,” said Val Corcoran, Festival President. “It’s such a pleasure to see how our community continues to honor Kona coffee by incorporating it into inventive recipes that reflect Hawaii’s unique culinary heritage. Each of these winning recipes is a testament to the talent and creativity of our community.”

All winning recipes will be featured on the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival’s website.

Festival continues through Sunday, November 10, 2024.

Purchase a \$5 Festival admission button and enjoy ten days of fun family events and get special rates for ticketed events. Festival admission buttons are available for purchase at many retail and farm locations throughout the Kona area.

For more information, please visit www.konacoffeefest.com. Be sure to follow the Festival on social media @konacoffeefest

The Kona Coffee Cultural Festival is made possible through the support of Hawaii Tourism Authority and the generous sponsorship of UCC Ueshima Coffee Co., Ltd., Kamehameha Schools, Alaska Airlines, KTA Super Stores, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, and numerous other corporate and community donors.

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Festival Accolades

Lonely Planet’s Global Coffee Tour book listed the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival as a “world’s best coffee experience.” National Geographic recently wrote that the “Festival is a Best Fall Festival in the United States” with the National Geographic Traveler listing the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival as a “Best Food Festival in Every U.S. State.” Country Living Magazine included this year’s Festival as one of the “Best Fall Festivals and Fairs Across the United States” and earlier as a “Best Fall Festival to Celebrate the Season” Expedia Viewfinder’s *“Essential Fall Experiences across America”* and the International Festivals & Events Association awarded the Festival with IFEA Haas & Wilkerson Pinnacle Awards recognized the Festival for outstanding accomplishments and top quality creative, promotional materials.

About Kona Coffee Cultural Festival

The Kona Coffee Cultural Festival is an annual event that celebrates the heritage, culture, and history of Kona coffee. With a legacy spanning over fifty years, the festival has become a cornerstone of the Kona community, drawing visitors from across the globe to experience the unique flavors and traditions of Kona coffee.