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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO CULINARY TEAM TAKES HOME THE GOLD AT 'TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN' IN MIAMI

Eight-member group took home the overall 'Caribbean National Team of the Year' at the event hosted by Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – June 14, 2016 – From June 6 – 10, 2016, the [Trinidad & Tobago](#) culinary team took part in the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association's (CHTA) *Taste of the Caribbean* competition, taking home the top honor of 'Caribbean National Team of the Year' with a total of six gold medals, two silver medals and an induction into the *Taste of the Caribbean* Hall of Fame. The Trinidad & Tobago team faced off against top chefs from 14 Caribbean nations in various competitions throughout the week, held at Hyatt Regency Miami.

Led by team captain Adrian Cumberbatch of Hyatt Regency Trinidad, the energetic Trinidad & Tobago team participated in competitions as individuals and as a group. Composed of various chefs from the destination, the team put in hours of preparation before heading to Miami for the competition. The group participated in team building activities, trainings, mock competitions and more.

The Trinidad & Tobago winners are as follows:

- **Caribbean National Team of the Year Gold Medal & Overall Winner**, Brandon Maharaj-Chef Brandon Catering & Gourmet Services ; Jeremy Lovell, Chef, Courtyard by Marriott ; Clinton Ramdhan-Bartender, Verve Creations Ltd ; Kimberly Jagassar-Pastry Chef, Hyatt Regency Trinidad ; Annelca Mendoza-Junior Chef-Iesa Events ; Adam de Freitas, Alternate Chef-The Anchorage ; Kishion Guillaume, Alternate Bartender-CJ Lounge ; Team Captain-Mr. Adrian Cumberbatch, Executive Sous Chef, Hyatt Regency Trinidad
- **Chef of the Year Gold Medal**, Brandon Maharaj of Brandon Catering & Gourmet Services
- **Pastry Chef of the Year Gold Medal & Overall Winner**, Kimberly Jagassar of Hyatt Regency Trinidad
- **Beef Competition Gold Medal & Overall Winner**, Jeremy Lovell of Courtyard by Marriott
- **Seafood Gold Medal**, Adam de Freitas of The Anchorage
- **Junior Chef of the Year Gold Medal**, Annelca Mendoza of Iesa Events
- **Bartender of the year Silver Medal**, Clinton Ramdhan of Verve Creations Ltd
- **Cheesecake Competition Silver Medal**, Kimberly Jagassar of Hyatt Regency Trinidad
- **Inductee into the Taste of the Caribbean Hall of Fame**, Kimberly Jagassar of Hyatt Regency Trinidad

Held annually, *Taste of the Caribbean* showcases the best chefs and bartenders from around the region. Aptly described as an avenue 'to provide education and inspiration through tastings and demonstrations,' *Taste of the Caribbean* also offers participants an opportunity to receive expert advice from culinary connoisseurs, all on hand to help build the region's food and beverage industry. Since 1993, *Taste of the Caribbean* has been the Caribbean's leading culinary competition. The first Trinidad and Tobago National team entered the competition in 1997 and won a bronze medal for kitchen standards and a gold medal in the centerpiece competition. Several national teams were subsequently sent for an additional 11 appearances over a 16-year period and have collectively amassed a haul of 52 medals, comprising 23 Gold, 20 Silver and nine Bronze medals prior to this competition.

For images and videos of the winners, visit <https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanHotelAndTourismAssociation/>.

THE 2016 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NATIONAL CULINARY TEAM



Brandon Maharaj-Chef Brandon Catering & Gourmet Services
Jeremy Lovell, Chef, Courtyard by Marriott
Clinton Ramdhan-Bartender, Verve Creations Ltd
Kimberly Jagassar-Pastry Chef, Hyatt Regency Trinidad
Annelca Mendoza-Junior Chef-Iesa Events
Adam de Freitas, Alternate Chef-The Anchorage
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About Trinidad & Tobago

Home to the largest Carnival celebration in the Caribbean, Trinidad & Tobago is the southernmost Caribbean nation located seven miles east off the Venezuelan coast. Ranked the happiest nation in the Caribbean by the United Nations' [World Happiness Report](#), in 2013 and 2015, the destination's distinct and harmonious blend of cultures, eclectic cuisine and eco-adventure activities continue to attract travelers of all ages to its shores. Birthplace of the limbo and the world famous steelpan, the only-acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century, as well as a diverse mix of monthly [festivals and events](#), it's little wonder that Trinidad is known as the 'cultural capital of the Caribbean.' Sister island Tobago offers a quintessential Caribbean vibe with secluded beaches, quaint villages, private villas and award-winning environmental treasures. Tobago is home to the largest brain coral in the Western Hemisphere and the oldest protected reserve in the Western hemisphere, The Main Ridge Rainforest. Come explore Trinidad & Tobago - the true Caribbean. For more information on Trinidad & Tobago, visit www.goTrinidadandTobago.com or www.visittobago.gov.tt.