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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CALIANO CROWNED “JUDGES’ CHOICE” AND PACIFIC BEACH FISH SHOP TAKES  
“PEOPLE’S CHOICE” AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL TACO TKO COMPETITION**

**San Diego, CA (November 22, 2019)** – Sponsored by Dining Out Magazine and Cazadores Tequila, the [San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival](#)® announces the winners of this year’s Taco TKO Competition, held on November 17 at Lane Field Park. The annual competition brings the city’s top taco makers together to compete head-to-head for the title of San Diego’s Most Awesome Taco.

Top prizes went to Caliano for Judges’ Choice and Pacific Beach Fish Shop for the People’s Choice. Over 800 people attended this year’s Taco TKO and sampled 10 different tacos, as well as a variety of unique beer, wine and tequila stations while enjoying live music from Bulevar Descarga. Judges for this year’s competition included Claudia Sandoval from MasterChef Latino, Not Not Taco’s Sam the Cooking Guy, and producer of the San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival Ken Loyst.

While Curadero ranked closely in third place, this year’s second place for Judges’ Choice went to Volcano Rabbit’s Chicken Tinga Taco featuring avocado yogurt, takis fuego dust, cotija cheese and shredded lettuce. Southern Italian and Mexican cuisine food truck, Caliano, took first place for the Judge’s Choice earning bragging rights and a \$500 reward. Caliano won the judges over with their savory pork belly, topped with smoked potato and guacamole salsa.

Carte Blanche, also winner of the San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival 2019 Arrive at Awesome Sauce Competition held at the Barbecue + Bourbon event, ranked third place for the People’s Choice for their duck confit taco. Second place for People’s Choice was given to Curadero for their pork belly taco, and the first place prize for People’s Choice went to Pacific Beach Fish Shop for their Mahi Elote Taco with fish shop seasoning, cilantro white sauce, light cabbage, and elote pico topped with cotija cheese.

**Competitors included:**

- Miss B’s Coconut Club
- Global City Tacos
- Volcano Rabbit
- Casa Dorada
- Sandbar Sports Bar & Grill
- Curadero

- Carte Blanche
- PB Fish Shop
- Global Tacos Grill
- Caliano

Southern California's largest food and wine classic, the San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival was held November 10-17, 2019. The citywide festival features over 40 events including the iconic Grand Tasting held on Saturday, November 16, and the Taco TKO held on Sunday, November 17. Tickets for the 2020 festival will be available on December 1 and can be purchased online at [www.sandiegowineclassic.com](http://www.sandiegowineclassic.com).

**SAN DIEGO BAY WINE + FOOD FESTIVAL®**

Travel to San Diego. Arrive Awesome. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival® is an international showcase of the world's premier wine and spirits producers, chefs and culinary personalities, and gourmet foods. Held November 10-17, 2019 the event benefits culinary arts and enology scholarships awarded by Fast Forward Futures, the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs and the Berry Good Night Foundation. Over 200 wineries, breweries, and spirit companies and 50 of San Diego's top fine-dining restaurants will participate in the 2019 Festival. For more information visit [www.sandiegowineclassic.com](http://www.sandiegowineclassic.com) Produced by World of Wine Events and Fast Forward. For more information call 619-312-1212.