



MEDIA RELEASE

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DESERT DELIGHTS AT DESERT MUSEUM DESSERT NIGHT

TUCSON (May 19, 2014) If you're into gourmet cooking or just a self-proclaimed "foodie", take note. The Desert Museum is scheduled to host its first ever *Desert Dessert Night* on Saturday evening, May 24 from 6 to 10 p.m. In keeping with its mission to encourage appreciation of the Sonoran Desert, the Museum is partnering with Tucson Originals restaurants and KOLD for a confectionary cook-off to create original desserts using native Sonoran Desert ingredients.

The Museum grounds will be open for a twilight viewing of the gardens, animals and exhibits. "Visiting the desert at night is an entirely different experience than during the daytime," states Craig Ivanyi, the Museum's Executive Director. "If Tucsonans haven't visited at night before, they are missing a real treat. The cats begin to prowl, the beavers come out and the Southern Arizona skies alight with constellations. Plus the drive out through Gates Pass and Tucson Mountain Park is worth the price of admission!"

Guests will enjoy sampling a variety of culinary delights created by Tucson Originals' innovative chefs. Fifteen individual restaurants and chefs will dish up an assortment of original creations. "We're pleased to be invited to partner with the Desert Museum in this event," shares Coralie Satta, chef/owner of Ghini's French Café.

“The competition will allow many of Tucson’s local chefs to shine and showcase their expertise,” Satta continues. Guests will be able to sample both hot and cold dessert entries and vote for their favorites. Specialty coffees and beverages will be available for sale and each participant will receive a commemorative mug (while supplies last).

The Museum is known for its educational programming so guests will be treated to special presentations of its singular class, *Sonoran Supermarket*. Learn about native ingredients and fibers and how to use them to create tempting taste treats or weave artistic crafts. The event wouldn’t be complete without soulful music by Beth Daunis and Phil Lipman to accentuate the evening’s atmosphere.

“KOLD, as a co-sponsor of the event, hopes to increase awareness of the fabulous local talent here in Tucson as well as support the Desert Museum in its conservation mission of the Sonoran Desert,” affirms Debbie Bush, KOLD General Manager.

Tickets are on sale now either online or at the museum. There is no service fee for online purchases. Tickets are \$43 each (\$33 Members) and include sampling, entertainment and the majority of the museum’s exhibits will be open. A limited number of tickets are available and the event may sell out so buy your tickets today. For more details about the event, visit desertmuseum.org.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of the nation’s leading outdoor, living museums, featuring more than 230 animals and 1,200 varieties of desert plants. Its purpose is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the bi-national, Sonoran Desert region. The museum is located at 2021 N. Kinney Road, in Tucson Mountain Park adjacent to Saguaro National Park (West). It is open daily year round with operating hours varying by season. Call (520) 883-2702 or visit www.desertmuseum.org for more information.

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