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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jennifer Squires
831-515-2802 or jennifer@millermxfield.com

MOLE CHEFS ANNOUNCED FOR FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS' 2ND ANNUAL MOLE AND MARIACHI FESTIVAL

PEOPLE'S CHOICE CHAMPION EL JARDIN RETURNS TO DEFEND ITS TITLE

SEPT. 8, 2014–SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends), a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining the legacy of our local state parks and beaches, today announced the seven mole chefs competing at the second annual Mole & Mariachi Festival, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, from 11am - 5pm at Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park (144 School St.) in downtown Santa Cruz. Admission is free. A free trolley from downtown Santa Cruz will be offered, as well as a bike valet service.

Nine competitors will prepare *mole*, a traditional Mexican sauce, sometimes made using chocolate, for festival-goers to sample. Mole tasting kits will be available for \$10.

Competitors will include:

- El Jardin, a Santa Cruz restaurant and the 2013 People's Choice winner with "Jorge's Traditional Mole."
- El Chipotle, a taqueria in Soquel that makes a rojo Oaxaqueño *mole*.
- Lidia's Taqueria, a Watsonville eatery making a traditional Oaxacan dark *mole* with *nopales* (cactus paddles).
- El Chino, a Santa Cruz restaurant that will prepare a *mole* with poblano chilis.
- The Kitchen at Discretion Brewing. (The Soquel brewery also will be serving craft beer.)
- My Mom's Mole, a 25-ingredient Guanajuato-style sauce that is spicy, not sweet, prepared by chef Cesario Ruiz.
- Vivas, an organic fresh Mexican restaurant in Santa Cruz.
- Maya Mexican Restaurant, a Scotts Valley eatery that will enter an original Michoacán mole.
- Chef Gloria Yslava, a newcomer to the event whose unique recipe includes chocolate, peanuts and pumpkin seeds.

Festival attendees and a panel of local celebrity judges will rate the *mole* and awards will be bestowed on the best sauces in two categories: Peoples' Choice and Judges' Choice.

Food, beer and wine also will be available at the Mole & Mariachi Festival. Garcia's Fish Tacos, Mission Hill Ice Creamery and El Jardin will have food booths. Churros, *mole* truffles made by Chocolate restaurant, and Sazon Mexicano's *sopes* (fried *masa* topped with vegetables and meat) are other treats that will be available for purchase at the Mole & Mariachi Festival.

In addition to Discretion Brewing, Lagunitas Brewery and Santa Cruz Mountain Vineyards will

be on-hand, and *cheladas* (beer and tomato juice) also will be sold.

The event also will feature entertainment throughout the day. Two mariachi bands, a youth *folklorico* dance troupe and *mojigangas* (giant dancing puppets) will perform. Several activities for children will be available throughout the day including Mexican crafts (paper flowers), piñatas and tortilla making.

In addition to the array of delicious local food and beverages, raffle tickets will be available for purchase. The event is a benefit for Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks in support of Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park restoration projects, educational programming for school children and community cultural events at the park.

For more information on attending or participating, email Festival@ThatsMyPark.org or visit <http://www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission/mole-andmariachi-festival>

More about mole: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mole_\(sauce\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mole_(sauce))

About Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park

The Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park is home to the oldest building in Santa Cruz County. Built between 1822 and 1824 by local Ohlonean and Yokuts Indians, the park's signature adobe is the only remaining structure from Mission Santa Cruz, founded in 1791. One of just four adobe buildings left in Santa Cruz County—and sometimes confused with the nearby replica mission chapel—it is the only building of its kind preserved as a museum in the State of California. The adobe served as housing for Neophyte families who lived and worked at the Mission, which operated until 1834 when it was secularized. After decades of private ownership, the adobe was sold to the State of California, extensively restored and finally opened in 1991 to the public as the Santa Cruz Mission SHP.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks saved Santa Cruz Mission Adobe SHP from closure in 2012. Friends' funding for the Mission has supported maintenance and operations at the park, as well as operation of the [Mission ParkStore](#) and a commitment to partner with the community and work with California State Parks to make needed improvements. Key improvements that have already been implemented include the opening of new interpretive exhibits, renovated outdoor cooking facilities and new hours of operation to serve local school children. The park is supported by the Mission Adobe Committee, members of which include representatives of Friends, State Parks and dedicated community volunteers.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is an entrepreneurial nonprofit sustaining the legacy of our state parks and beaches. Through an innovative partnership with California State Parks, and by leveraging local community support, Friends has provided millions of dollars of funding for educational programs, visitor services and capital projects. Founded in 1976, Friends is passionately dedicated to the preservation of our spectacular natural environment and rich cultural history. Friends also operates six ParkStores, offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. Learn more about Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks at ThatsMyPark.org or via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

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