

# CALIFORNIA RAISIN MARKETING BOARD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **California Raisin Marketing Board Announces the Winners of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual America's Best Raisin Bread Contest**

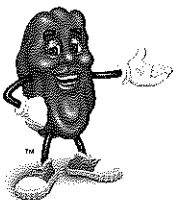
Fresno, Calif. (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013) – At this year's International Baking Industry Exposition, concluding on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Las Vegas Convention Center, the California Raisin Marketing Board (CRMB) announced the Top 12 Winners in the ultimate baking contest for North American Professional and Student Bakers.

From a record high number of applications, 36 finalists were chosen to compete for the 12 top prizes recognizing those professional bakers and students who clearly demonstrated to the judges that they had created their California raisin-containing masterpieces in one of three different categories: Artisan, Commercial, and Breakfast.

In order to win, the applicants had to first enter their formulations and photos to the judging panel, wherein the judges carefully and independently voted for which 36 finalists would be invited to compete on the largest baking industry stage in the world. Finalists were flown to Las Vegas and the IBIE convention at CRMB expense to bake and orally present their creations to the superb panel of internationally known judges.

Each day, 12 of the finalists were tasked to prepare their formulas, by category: Artisan, Commercial and Breakfast. Each day the judges would observe the finalists, and score them for their dress, their work station cleanliness, the creativity in the use of ingredients, the look and taste of their finished products, the story behind the naming of the product, the plans to launch or the story behind current sales, and the cost of ingredients compared to suggested retail price.

The CRMB created this contest to reward working bakers, who develop products to be sold on store shelves and is most interested in how tasty and attractive the product will be with everyday consumers. California raisins are the most broadly used and reasonably priced of all possible value-added fruit ingredients, and it is the CRMB's desire to showcase their versatility.



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Congratulations to the winners:

## ARTISAN CATEGORY:

**Grand Prize:** Nicky Giusto, Central Milling, Petaluma, CA; *Raisin de Soleil*

**Judges' Prize:** Kristin Troester, St. Peter's Bakery, Elverson, PA; *Sultana Sunflower Bread*

**Idea Prize:** Robert Sarubbi, Marriott International/Ritz Carlton, Key Biscayne, FL; *Hard Crusted Raisin Pecan with Sweet Potato and Cinnamon Bread*

**Student Prize:** Bradley Price, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS; *Raisin and Harvest Pear Focaccia*

## COMMERCIAL CATEGORY:

**Grand Prize:** Sandy Kim, Chabaso Bakery, New Haven, CT; *Spice Trader's Raisin Stick*

**Judges' Prize:** Daniel Swift, University of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV; *Chocolate Raisin Bread*

**Idea Prize:** Alphonse Beccard, 5 Generation Bakers, McDonald, PA; *Rum Raisin Christmas Swirl*

**Student Prize:** Kathy Zibilich, El Central Culinary School, Dallas, TX; *Raisin Paska Bread*

## BREAKFAST CATEGORY:

**Grand Prize:** Robert Nieto, Jackson Family Wines, Fulton, CA; *Raisin Chardonnay Brioche*

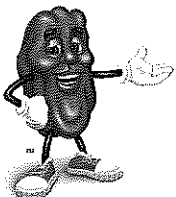
**Judges' Prize:** Kaitlin Guest, Gold Coast Ingredients, Commerce, CA; *Golden Raisin Getaway*

**Idea Prize:** Nancy Cain, Against the Grain Gourmet, Brattleboro, VT; *Raisin The Bar*

**Student Breakfast Prize:** Samantha Ring, Kendall College, Chicago, IL; *Sweet Potato Raisin Roll*

The CRMB wishes to thank the generosity of the Show's organizers, IBIE and BEMA, as well as many bakery equipment and supply companies without whose donations of equipment and materials, this event would not have been possible.

Noteworthy are the contributions of the Bread Bakers Guild of America, the Retail Bakers of America, American Institute of Baking International, King Arthur Flour, Revent, OHaus, American Pan, Cresco, Resco, Fritsch Rollfix USA, Rondo Corporation, LaSaffre Yeast Corporation, National Dairy Farmers, Plugrà Butter, Hodak Kolstad Marketing, the Art Institute of Nevada, and Kendall College.



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As always, Jeff Zeak as the contest floor manager did a remarkable job in organizing the show floor and timing the daily activities for the smooth running of this complex event. And hats off to our Chief Judge, Theresa Cogswell, for her hard work in preliminary and final judging of this contest and working with our talented team of judges - Cyril Hitz, Klaus Tenbergen, Dominique Homo, Melina Kelson, and David Guilfoyle.

Previous America's Best Raisin Bread Contest Winners have received numerous accolades on the national and international levels, including the World Cup of Baking in Paris and a variety of food and cooking channel shows.

## **About the California Raisin Marketing Board**

A State Marketing Order in 1998 created the 100% grower-funded California Raisin Marketing Board. Its mission is to support and promote the increased use of California-grown raisins and sponsor crop production, nutrition and market research. For more information about the California Raisin Marketing Board and to browse delicious recipes, visit [www.loveyourraisins.com](http://www.loveyourraisins.com).

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