

### Coffee Fest: Las Vegas Review

*Tea and Coffee Trade Journal - July 2005*



Coffee Fest's 40th show boasted more than 3,350 attendees over three days with a spectacular line-up of more than 70 educational sessions and a focused exhibition featuring more than 250 booths.

COFFEE FEST LAS VEGAS, held in conjunction with The Great American Dessert Expo at the Las Vegas Convention Center June 3 through 5, proved to be a rousing success for attendees and exhibitors alike. Following were some of the major highlights: Coffee Fest's popular three-day specialty coffee business seminar presenters, Kent Holloway, David J. Morris, Tommy Thwaites and Greg Hartlein hosted the premier "Coffee Fest Hands-On Barista Training and Certification Program", sponsored by Nuova Simonelli. There were more than 100 participants in this flagship event, created by Coffee Fest's training arm, The International Academy of Specialty Coffee.

Another first, the "Stirling Signature Beverage Open", hosted by Coffee Fest in conjunction with Stirling Gourmet Flavors, was a free-form competition designed to highlight and encourage quality and creativity in beverage making. Astoria provided the equipment for the competition, including a two-group espresso machine and grinder. Blendtec provided the blender.

Anna Gutierrez of Dillanos Coffee Roasters in Puyallup, Washington, wowed the judges and took the \$500 prize for "Best Tasting Beverage" with her "Anna Banana's Famous Flaming Fosters", a delicious blended beverage including espresso, bananas, cinnamon, brown sugar, Stirling Jamaican Rum, Stirling Going Bananas, Stirling Crème Brulee, Appleton rum, Crème de Banana, ice and cream. "With seven years of experience in the specialty coffee industry, I always have had a great time creating drinks with different syrups. When trying to think of a drink for the Stirling Signature Beverage Open, I wanted to be creative with a dessert that I love," Gutierrez says. "There were three things that I knew were a must: Awesome syrups, smooth Dillanos Coffee and of course, fire!"

Anna Gutierrez won "Best Tasting Beverage" for her, "Anna Banana's Famous Flaming Fosters".