



Martini Madness

The results are in and one bartender stands alone as the winner of the first ever Central Coast Vodka Martini Shakedown sponsored by Rosa's Italian Restaurant in Pismo Beach and Absolut Vodka.

Ten mixologists poured their creations for a panel of seven judges looking for creativity, presentation, flavor and aroma.

Paula Nichols, a bartender at Quarter Deck for the last six years, was the mixologist with the most moxy. Her Absolutely Peachy-tini garnered first place honors from the judges as well as the People's Choice Award.

"I had really great competition," said Nichols who made about 150 of her peach concoctions in three hours. "I was impressed by what everybody else had put forward. It was

exciting. I was a little overwhelmed by it."

The San Luis Obispo resident created the drink while getting creative with leftover alcohol. The award winning drink consists of Absolut Peach Vodka, Chateau Monet Framboise, peach nectar, sweet and sour and a splash of champagne.

Nearly 200 people attended the fundraising event that raised about \$3,000 for St. Patrick's Church Outreach Program and the San Luis Obispo Food Bank Coalition Backpack Program.

Second place honors went to Shanee Benhaim Sean Cronan of Mother's Tavern for their Chocolate Hazelnut Torte Martini. Shannon Feldhaus, of Alex's BBQ, places third with the Absolutely Pear-tini.

Theresa-Marie Wilson

