



Las Vegas Speed Rack Recap

On Sunday, March 11, Speed Rack headed to Sin City. As an early kickoff to Nightclub & Bar Show, the women of Speed Rack took over The Swinger's Club at The Plaza Hotel & Casino as 13 lovely ladies from Las Vegas and New Mexico vied for the top eight spots as they faced off in the preliminaries. The top eight girls who qualified to compete were: Adrienne Miller (Hard Rock Casino – New Mexico), Kate Gerwin (Marcello's – New Mexico), Zaida Leremia (Canonita at The Venetian), Allison Colarusso (RM Seafood at Mandalay Bay), Adina Artstein (Surrender Nightclub), Cynthia Halog (Fusion at The Venetian), Hsiu-Ting Yu (Fusion at The Venetian) and Mahalia Scaglione (RM Seafood at Mandalay Bay). In a Speed Rack first, we had a tie for 8th and 9th place and to determine who would go on to the top 8, held a tie breaker between Mariena Mercer (Cosmopolitan) and Mahalia, with Mahalia emerging victorious.

Our local coordinators Wendy Hodges and Heidi Welniak helped hype the event by papering downtown with flyers, appearing on radio shows and hitting the streets to get raffle prizes. Doors opened to the public at 1pm and guests were treated to sponsors' punches and cocktails, as well as beer and food from Taqueria Canonita and Valentino at The Venetian. Host Chris Patino kept the show running and DJ Karl had the house rocking in between rounds to set a high-energy mood by spinning fun songs for each bout. A special raffle girl walked around selling tickets to the raffle, which included prizes like gift certificates for dinner at Smith & Wollensky, Delmonico's, I Love Burgers and books from judges Kathy Casey and Tony Abou-Ganim.

In front of a full house of over 200 people the competition began. Judges included local mixology legend Tony Abou-Ganim, Liquid Chef Kathy Casey, Charlotte Voisey (William Grant & Sons) and drinks maven Audrey Saunders (Pegu Club, NYC). The round began with the judges each calling out a drink for the girls to make. The contestants had to make the drinks as quickly – and as accurately – as possible. The judges then compared the girls' drinks side by side and issued penalty seconds to the girls for any mistakes made. The girl with the lowest time was declared the winner and moved on to the next round. 6 heated battles ensued, until we were down to the final two: Hsiu-Ting Yu vs. Kate Gerwin. In a tight and competitive final round, Hsiu-Ting emerged victorious. She will join the winners of the other nine cities and six wildcards at the finals in NYC in May.

In one of the most well attended industry events downtown Las Vegas has seen, over \$3,000 was raised for breast cancer research, education and prevention!

Full list of competitors

COMPETITOR	PLACE OF WORK
Adina Artstein	Surrender Nightclub
Adrienne Miller	Hard Rock Casino (New Mexico)
Allison Colarusso	RM Seafood at Mandalay Bay
Cynthia Halog	Fusion Bar inside The Palazzo
Hsiu-Ting Yu	Fusion Bar inside The Palazzo
Jessica Fesler	Double Helix Wine & Whisky
Juyoung Kang	Comme Ca Las Vegas
Kate Gerwin	Marcello's (New Mexico)
Lizeth Galvon	Bellagio
Mahalia Scaglione	RM Seafood at Mandalay Bay
Mariena Mercer	Cosmopolitan
Patricia Richardson	Wynn
Victoria Cleckner	
Zaida Ieremia	Cannonita at the Venetian

Photos



More photos can be found at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/speedrack/sets/72157629277063172/>