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“Honouring our Chocolate Roots” Grenada Chocolate Festival 2017

The **2017 Grenada Chocolate Fest** celebrates the island’s delicious organic and ethically produced cocoa and chocolate. Back for a fourth year on 12-20 May, the Festival is a perfect experience for all those who have a passion or interest in dark chocolate.

“Honouring our Chocolate Roots” is the theme of the 2017 Festival that will celebrate the work of the farmers who have nurtured and harvested Grenada’s delicious fine-flavoured cocoa. International chocolate specialist, Hazel Lee, who visited both the 2015 and 2016 festivals talks about the Grenadian farmers “*extraordinary knowledge about cacao*” and the importance of understanding the value of cocoa “*because without these talented and hard-working farmers*” we would have none of the beautiful and delicious award-winning chocolate that Grenada is now internationally famous for.

Significantly, the chocolate industry is expanding on the island with several tree-to-bar chocolate factories, including the famous Grenada Chocolate Company established by the late Mott Green, Crayfish Bay Organic Cocoa Estate and Diamond Chocolate Factory. More recently, the House of Chocolate museum has opened to great acclaim in the historic town of St Georges. Grenada is now proudly at the forefront of a global trend for high quality, ethically produced, single origin, organic cocoa. It is one of only 17 countries internationally producing this exclusive product. Furthermore, 100% of the cocoa produced on the island is of high quality - a status achieved by only 8 other countries worldwide (1).

The Festival creates a platform for the island’s cocoa estates, farmers and agro-tourism, together with chocolate-makers, vendors, hotels, restaurants, and food sellers to raise their profile as well as promote and sell their products to festival-goers from Grenada, the Caribbean and internationally. Previous festivals have attracted and provided inspiration to visitors from all over the world including Trinidad, Jamaica, US, Mexico, UK, Canada, and Ireland.

The 2017 festival programme takes festival-goers on a journey through the island’s rich history, visiting cocoa farms nestled in its lush tropical forests where they can be a cocoa farmer or a chocolatier for a day. Other festival activities include learning the secrets of fermenting, drying and polishing of the cocoa beans from chocolate experts, and walking in the drying trays and dancing in the old copper pots. New for 2017 festival programme is a walk through historic St Georges and a music, dance and art event at the celebrated Sendall Tunnel (a narrow 340-ft passageway built in 1894) combined with a visit to the National Museum.

Grenada's chocolate artisans crafting their famous ethical "tree to bar" products will meet festival-goers, who can also learn to cook a chocolate-inspired lunch using fresh local produce, chocolate, cocoa and spices. Festival-goers can join local and international chocolatiers at a "Mini Chocolate Salon" where they share the secrets of their own chocolate creations, and exchange tastes and ideas. It's not all hard work though, visitors can also jam by the turquoise sea at sunset, run through a cocoa forest, and when they are ready to relax and unwind, they can indulge in some authentic chocolate-inspired cuisine and luxuriate in cocoa-infused island life.

Notes to Editor:

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Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrenadaChocolatFest>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/grenadachocolatefest/?hl=en>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIILr7janXGzoiCRgASHrnA>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GrenadaChocoFes>

1) Chocolate Facts

- The Grenada Chocolate Cooperative was founded in 1999 by Mott Green, Edmond Brown and Doug Browne and a number of cocoa farmers.
- The solar-powered Grenada Chocolate Company in Hermitage has won numerous medals at the London Academy of Chocolate and is recognised as one of the foremost "tree to bar" makers in the world.
- Magdalena Fielden, Honorary Consul for Mexico to Grenada, founded the Grenada Chocolate Fest. The first festival took place in September 2014 with more than 40 local businesses, vendors and artists taking part.
- House of Chocolate, Young Street, St Georges opened in 2015.
- Crayfish Bay Organic Estate's 70% chocolate made by Pump Street Bakery won European Gold at the International Chocolate Awards 2015.
- Crayfish Bay Organic Estate in St Marks began chocolate production in 2016.
- Diamond Chocolate Factory opened in St Marks in 2014.

2) Chocolate Fest Programme

Details of the programme are available at www.grenadachocolatefest.com

3) Chocolate references

(1) <http://www.icco.org/about-cocoa/fine-or-flavour-cocoa.html>

The International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) is a global organization, composed of both cocoa producing and cocoa consuming member countries. Located in London, ICCO was established in 1973 to put into effect the first International Cocoa Agreement which was negotiated in Geneva at a United Nations International Cocoa Conference. There have since been seven Agreements. The Seventh International Cocoa Agreement, negotiated in 2010 in Geneva, came into force provisionally in October 2012.



“Honouring our Chocolate Roots”

May 12th to 19th 2017

The Grenada Chocolate Fest returns!

The Grenada Chocolate Fest celebrates the island’s delicious organic and ethically produced cocoa and chocolate. Back for a fourth year, the festival is a perfect experience for all those who have a passion for dark chocolate. Learn how Grenada’s chocolate farmers and artisans craft their famous ethical “tree to bar” products. Take a journey through the island’s rich history and visit cocoa farms nestled in its lush Caribbean rain forest....dance the cocoa or be a cocoa farmer or a Caribbean chocolatier for a day. Jam by the turquoise sea at sunset, and run through a cocoa forest! And when you are ready to relax and unwind, indulge in some authentic chocolate-inspired cuisine and luxuriate in cocoa-infused island life!

Friday 12th “Get In the Mood for Chocolate”

Day Visit Grenada’s House of Chocolate in historic St George’s. Get information and tickets for the festival, try delicious homemade bonbons and truffles and a cup of delicious cocoa tea and buy some of your chocolate supplies for the week!

Night Join the Festival Chocolicious Opening Party at Dodgy Dock, True Blue Bay Resort and dance to the happy rhythms of Grenada. Enjoy delicious food, both savoury and sweet, prepared with organic cocoa and chocolate and try chocolate-scented rums and chocolate beer. This year, we will be honouring key Grenada cocoa farmers and highlighting their hard work and achievements.

Saturday 13th “Healthy Benefits of Cocoa at True Blue Bay Boutique Resort”

Day Begin with an inspiring yoga session and cocoa tea meditation at **Sankalpa Yoga Studio** followed by a gloriously indulgent chocolate breakfast at the **Dodgy Dock**. Find out about the health benefits of chocolate and learn to make magic chocolate beauty potions to take away with you. Book your chocolate treatments for the week at **Blue Haven Spa**.

Afternoon “The Chocolate Hash” Experience the countryside with the **Grenada House Harriers** on their weekly “hash” running (or walking) through cocoa plantations (a reasonable level of fitness required)!!

Sunday 14th “Chocolate and Arts and Music by the Tunnel”

Day Walk through St Georges, enjoy the old Georgian architecture and join us at the celebrated **Sendall Tunnel in St Georges** (a narrow 340-ft passageway built in 1894) with music, dancers and art. Visit the National Museum and Art Fabrik, a boutique with exquisite handcrafted batik art and clothes. Finally, cool down for refreshments across the road at the **House of Chocolate!**

Monday 15th “Belmont Estate Tree To Bar Experience”

Day Visit the magnificent Belmont Estate, an authentic 17th century cocoa plantation and see the traditional ways of picking and processing cocoa through to making and creating chocolate. Learn from expert Dr. Sukha from the Cocoa Research Center the secrets of fermenting, drying and polishing of the cocoa beans, walking in the drying trays and dancing in the old copper pots. You are also invited to join the official Opening of the new Belmont Chocolate Factory!

Night Meet at the West Indies Beer Company brewery-bar for a pint of chocolate beer and other cocoaktails, delicious food, and dancing to Caribbean tunes.

Tuesday 16th “Cook it up + join fellow chocolatiers for a taste of Chocolate”

Day Cook your own chocolate-inspired lunch guided by local star cooks, Esther and Omega, using fresh local produce, chocolate,

cocoa and spices. Learn some quick chocolate secrets from Heidi Roberts “Kitchen Talk” visiting blogger at Dodgy Dock.

Early Evening Talk and taste of Mexican cacao and chocolates conducted by the renowned Mexican chocolatier, Ana Rita Garcia Lascurain. Follow by “Mini Chocolate Salon”. Join local and international Chocolatiers sharing the secrets of their own chocolate creations and exchange tastes and ideas! Session conducted by Ana Rita Garcia Lascurain and International Chocolatier and Blogger Elle Coco from the UK at **True Blue Bay Boutique Resort**

Wednesday 17th “Chocolate on a Shoestring!”

Day Be inspired by the ingenious creativity of Kim and Lylette, the owners of **Crayfish Bay Organic Estate** by making an exquisite tree-to-bar chocolate at their cocoa farm, and learn about the history of one of the oldest plantations in Grenada, Getting hungry...lunch is served a short drive away on the verandah at Petite Anse Restaurant with heart-stopping views of the Grenadine islands and chocolate inspired-food and local artists. Bring your swimwear and towel for a refreshing plunge by the pool. Tour of Diamond Chocolate Factory on the return journey.

Evening “Street Food Wednesday” at Dodgy Dock, where you can taste Grenada’s cuisine whilst listening and dancing to some of Grenada’s rising music stars.

Thursday 18th “Mott Green and the Grenada Chocolate Factory”

Day The day will start at the **Bonbon Shop in Belmont** to hear Edmond Brown, one of the original founders of the Grenada Chocolate Company, tell the story of the amazing Mott Green with a taste of their unique chocolate bars. Hear about the creation of Grenada’s first Tree-to-Bar chocolate and about the company’s passion for sustainability. Complete the experience with a tour of the **Grenada Chocolate Company** an al fresco Mott-style lunch of Grenadian Oil Down and white wine. For dessert, a special taste of the exquisite UK-based Rococo Chocolate (made with Grenada cocoa beans) conducted by Rococo’s head chocolatier Karen Waller

Evening Venue to be announced

Friday 19th “Let’s Get to Work”

Day Be a farmer for a day at Crayfish Bay Organic Estate and join the team - learn how to pick cocoa pods, harvest the beans and prepare them for processing. Alternatively visit Mount Edgecombe Plantation, a working cocoa estate and fabulous boutique hotel with luscious herb and fruit gardens. Learn how to pair the flavours of Grenada together...fruits, spices and cocoa. Enjoy a plantation-style lunch and a swim in one of the most dramatic locations Grenada has to offer.

Evening “Sunset Bonfire, Drumming and Chocolate” Soak up the atmosphere and sway to the beat of local drums around a beach bonfire. Sample delicious chocolate treats, aromatic local rums and exotic tropical cocktails at Mt. Cinnamon Beach Cabana at **Grand Anse Beach**.

Saturday 20th “Chocolate Extravaganza” Last day Party!

Day Visit **Grenada Community Library** for a fun day with the library kids, making cocoa balls, painting, reading and fund raising.

Evening The final festival event at Dodgy Dock is the “last day party” which includes an Arts and Crafts Bazaar where you can purchase beautiful handmade arts and crafts and souvenirs. Grenadian chefs will “cook up a storm” of chocolate in pop-up style on the waterfront. And finally...the evening will culminate with a fabulous cocoa and chocolate-inspired Fashion Show by local designers and the festival’s Silent Charity Auction, plus lots of live music to party the night away!

Sunday 21st “Free Day to Visit Grenada Sites and Beaches”

www.grenadachocolatefest.com

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/grenadachocolatefest/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIIlr7janXGzoiCRgASHrnA>

<https://www.facebook.com/GrenadaChocolatFest>

<https://twitter.com/GrenadaChocoFes>

<https://instagram.com/grenadachocolatefest/>

Some events and venues may change, so please follow us at social media or keep checking the website for updates



Grenada Chocolate Fest

“Honouring Our Chocolate Roots” May 12th – 20th, 2017

Date May	Time	Event	Location	Price US\$	Price EC\$
Fri 12th	“Get In the Mood for Chocolate”				
	Open 10:00am – 6:00pm	Visit “House of Chocolate” for tickets, chocolate and cocoa supplies.	House of Chocolate	Free entry	Free entry
	6:00pm – 10:00pm (Opening remarks 7pm)	“Grand Opening” Enjoy delicious cocoa inspired dishes and drinks, meet some of the key Grenada Cocoa Farmers, Chocolatiers and Local Personalities.	Dodgy Dock Restaurant & Lounge Bar	Free entry (Items on sale)	Free entry (Items on sale)
Sat 13th	“Healthy Benefits of Cocoa”				
	8:00am – 9:00am or 9:15am – 10:15am	“Yoga Chocolate Meditation” Inspiring yoga session with chocolate and cocoa tea meditation.	Sankalpa Yoga Studio	\$12.00	\$31.00
	8:00am to 11:00am	“Indulgent Chocolate Breakfast”	Dodgy Dock	\$14.00	\$36.00
	11:00am to 1:00pm	“Healthy Benefits of Chocolate Hands-On Workshop” with Chocolatier renown Ana Rita Garcia Lascurain	Dodgy Dock	\$15.00	\$39.00
		All 3 morning activities		\$38	\$99.00
	3:30pm to 6:30pm	“Cocoa Chocolate Hash” Bus departs from True Blue Bay Resort for Hash (location to be announced)	TBA	Round-trip Transportation: Adult \$12 Kids \$6 Hash: \$1.00	Round-trip Transportation: Adult \$31 Kids \$16 Hash: \$2.00
Sun 14th	“Chocolate, Arts & Music by the Tunnel”				
	TBA	“Arts by the Tunnel” Art exhibition and live entertainment, with chocolate tastings.	Sendall Tunnel	Free entry	Free entry

Date May	Time	Event	Location	Price US\$	Price EC\$
Mon 15th	“Belmont Estate Tree To Bar Experience”				
	8:30am	<i>*Bus departs from True Blue Bay Resort</i>	<i>Belmont Estate</i>	With Transport: Adults \$60 Kids \$40	With Transport: Adults \$156 Kids \$104
	10:00 - 10:15am	<i>Arrival and welcome</i>			
	10:30am	<i>*“Bean to Bar Tour” and field visit</i>			
	12 noon - 2pm	<i>*Chocolate themed lunch and tasting workshop</i>			
	2:30pm	<i>* Soft Launch & Tour of Belmont Estate’s Chocolate Factory</i>			
	4:00pm	<i>*Back to True Blue</i>			
From 7:00pm	“Chocolate at the Brewery” Try a pint of chocolate beer and delicious food while dancing to music.	<i>West Indies Beer Company</i>	Free entry <i>(Food & drinks on sale)</i>	Free entry <i>(Food & drinks on sale)</i>	
Tue 16th	“Cook It Up”				
	11:30am – 1:30pm	*Hands On Cooking Class and Lunch with Esther and Omega includes lunch and local juice. Also learn chocolate secrets from “Kitchen Talk’s” Heidi Roberts.	<i>Dodgy Dock, True Blue Bay</i>	\$25 <i>(Limited spots available)</i>	\$65 <i>(Limited spots available)</i>
	4:30 to 7:00pm	Talk and taste of Mexican cacao and chocolate with Mexican chocolatier, Ana Rita Garcia Lascurain. *Mini Salon <i>With local and international chocolatiers sharing chocolate creations and ideas, conducted by Founder of Mucho Chocolate Museum, Ana Rita Garcia Lascurain and UK blogger, Elle Coco.</i>	<i>Dodgy Dock, True Blue Bay</i>	\$20	\$52
Wed 17th	“Chocolate On a Shoestring”				
	8:00am	<i>*Bus departs from True Blue Bay Resort</i>	<i>Crayfish Bay</i>	With Transport: Adults \$60 Kids \$40	With Transport: Adults \$156 Kids \$104
	9:00am – 11:00am	<i>*Arrive at Crayfish Bay Organic Estate and learn to make an exquisite tree-to-bar chocolate.</i>			
	11:00am	<i>*Depart for Petite Anse</i>			
	11:30am	*Lunch and Swim at Petite Anse Bring your swimsuit and towel.	<i>Petite Anse Hotel</i>	Without Transport: Adults \$50 kids \$30	Without Transport: Adults \$130 kids \$78
2:00pm	*Departure for tour at Diamond Chocolate Factory.	<i>Diamond Chocolate Factory</i>	(Prices includes lunch with 1 drink)		

Date May	Time	Event	Location	Price US\$	Price EC\$
Wed 17th (Cont'd)	2:30pm – 3:30pm	<i>Tour and departure back to True Blue Bay Resort</i>			
	From 6:30pm	“Street Food Wednesday”	<i>Dodgy Dock, True Blue Bay</i>	<i>Free entry (Items on sale)</i>	<i>Free entry (Items on sale)</i>
Thu 18th	“Mott Green & the Grenada Chocolate Factory”				
	9:10am	<i>*Bus departs from True Blue Bay Resort</i>	<i>Bonbon Shop, Belmont Estate</i>	With Transport: Adults \$45 Kids \$25	With Transport: Adults \$117 Kids \$65
	9:30 - 10:15am	<i>*Visit the Grenada Chocolate Company’s Bonbon Shop and learn about the story of Mott Green from Edmond Brown.</i>			
	10:30am	<i>Departure to Grenada Chocolate Company</i>	<i>Grenada Chocolate Company</i>	Without Transport: Adults \$35 Kids \$20 (Prices includes lunch with 2 drinks)	Without Transport: Adults \$91 kids \$52 (Prices includes lunch with 2 drinks)
	12:00noon	<i>Have an al fresco Mott-style lunch of Oil Down and white wine after a tour of the factory.</i>			
	2:00pm	<i>Departure back to True Blue Bay Resort</i>			
	7:30	<i>Fundraising Dinner</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Fri 19th	“Let’s Get to Work or Play”				
	8:00am	<i>*Bus departs from True Blue Bay Resort</i>	<i>Crayfish Bay Or Mt. Edgecombe</i>	With Transport: Adults \$ 45 Without Transport: Adults \$ 35 Kids \$20 No Kids at Crayfish Bay (Prices includes lunch)	With Transport: Adults \$ 117 Without Transport: Adults \$ 91 Kids \$52 No Kids at Crayfish Bay (Prices includes lunch)
	9:00am – 2:30pm	<i>*“Be a Farmer For a Day” – (no kids for this activity) 9:00am Arrive at Crayfish Bay. <u>Please wear comfortable socks & shoes, long pants, sunblock, hat and insect repellent.</u> or “Relax for a Day” – 8:45am Arrive at Mt. Edgecombe. Learn how to pair fruits and spices, tour the lush garden and relax in the pool with a dramatic ocean view.</i>			
	12:30pm	<i>*Lunch</i>			
	2:30pm	<i>*Departure to True Blue Bay Resort</i>			
	6:00 pm to 10:00pm	Sunset Bonfire, Drumming & Chocolate Beach Party	<i>Mount Cinnamon Beach Cabana</i>	<i>Free entry (Items on sale)</i>	<i>Free entry (Items on sale)</i>

Date May	Time	Event	Location	Price US\$	Price EC\$
<i>Sat 20th</i>	<i>Chocolate Extravaganza Last Day Party!</i>				
	10:00am – 1:00pm	<i>Visit the library for a fun time with the children.</i>	<i>Grenada Community Library</i>	<i>Free</i>	<i>Free</i>
	5:00pm to 10:00pm	<i>Chocolate Arts & Crafts Bazaar and Extravaganza with Pop Up Chocolate Restaurant and Cocoa Inspired Food!</i>	<i>Dodgy Dock, True Blue Bay Resort</i>	<i>Free entrance + pay bar & food</i>	<i>Free entrance + pay bar & food</i>
	6:00pm	<i>Cocoachocolate Fashion Show</i>			
	7:00pm	<i>Closing of Charity Auction</i>			
	7:30pm	<i>Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks. Party Until</i>			
<i>*Cocoa Pass Includes all activities marked in this color</i>				<i>\$349</i>	<i>\$907</i>

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