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## Annual Art of Mixology benefits LAC



Photo Jennifer Wake

Hundreds of thirsty pleasure seekers attended the Lamorinda Arts Council's fifth annual Art of Mixology fundraiser Oct. 13 at Orinda's Theatre Square, which featured approximately 20 well-known and upcoming East Bay mixologists who came together to offer unique cocktails and vie for the coveted Mixologist of the Year award.

Portia Battistini of Lafayette's The Cooperage American Grille was named Mixologist of the Year for 2017 with her unique beer and bourbon creation entitled "Hops N Apricots," which is now her No. 1 selling drink on her menu. Battistini returned this year to assist her co-worker Patrick Dwyer for the title. "Nothing can beat last year's highlight and how special it was to win while my mom and grandma happened to be visiting from England. My mom was my barback and my grandma was taking pictures and they got to meet everyone I work with. I just love this event and the community; everyone is so nice and it is local!"

This year's event was made possible thanks to generous donations by Lamorinda Theatres, Republic Services, Alain Pinel Realtors, Diablo Magazine, Orinda Theatre Square, Lafayette Park Hotel, The Fourth Bore, La Piazza, Taverna Pellegrini, Land Home Financial, Edward D. Jang DDS and Associates, Picolli Napoli, Meredith Peterson Homes, Sucherman - Insalaco LLP, Safeway, SpiritWorks, and Compari Brands: Aperol Spitz and SKYY Vodka.

- J. Wake

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