

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Melody Baetens: Spirits

Michigan brewers are on tap



Say what you want about the economy, but no one can deny that Michigan's beer industry is on the upswing. The fifth annual Winter Beer Festival -- taking place Saturday at the Fifth Third Ballpark in Grand Rapids -- features beers from more than 40 breweries across the state.

"Craft beer is an affordable luxury and people recognize that supporting local businesses helps the entire community," says Scott Graham, executive director of the Michigan Brewers Guild.

"Michigan's breweries offer a very high quality variety of beer styles comparable to, if not exceeding, any state in the U.S. or any country worldwide."

Some of the Detroit-area brewers featured include Bastone, Big Rock Chophouse, Detroit Beer Co., Dragonmead Microbrewery, Motor City Brewing Works and Woodward Avenue Brewers.

More than 200 different beers will be available to sample. Each admission ticket includes 12 drink tokens. Each token is good for a 3-ounce sample of beer. Additional drink tokens will be available for purchase for 50 cents.

Designated drivers get into the festival for just \$5 at the door.

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