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## What's going on: Faygo Root Beer ranked No. 1

*Compiled by Sylvia Rector and Nancy Chipman Powers*

Bon Appétit's September issue ranks Detroit's own Faygo Root Beer No. 1 in a tasting of at least six brands from around the country. The magazine says root beer is the newest restaurant drink trend, showing up on menus everywhere.

Besides having satisfying, complex flavors, root beer is caffeine-free and usually sweetened with cane sugar rather than high-fructose corn syrup, the magazine notes.

The magazine describes it as "dry and crisp, with a frothy head, a good bite and a long finish."

Faygo says the drink we know as root beer was originally one of a group of beverages, with or without alcohol, called small beers. They were made with a blend of herbs, barks and roots that usually included birch, sarsaparilla and ginger. Faygo's first root beer was called Sassafras Soda; the name was changed to Faygo Root Beer in the late 1920s.

## Wine & Food Festival

Sip choice wines and sample local cuisine at the ninth annual Wine & Food Festival Saturday and Sunday at the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills.

This year's event offers more than 100 varieties of wine from award-winning wineries in Michigan and around the globe, as well as food, food seminars, entertainment, glass-blowing demonstrations, food vendors and special exhibits and displays. The festival runs 1-9:30 p.m. Saturday and 1-5:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$25, \$18 advance. Tickets for designated drivers cost \$10. Tickets are \$5 for ages 12-17 and free for ages 11 and younger. Details: [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com).

## Game show casting call

Here's your chance to see if you have what it takes to be the next Alex Trebek or Vanna White. Second Bananas in Detroit, in conjunction with Dark Elf Entertainment, is holding an open casting call for a game show. The show's three-part pilot is set to start filming locally in October. Producers are looking for game show hosts, assistants, contestants and audience members. The auditions are free and run 1-4 p.m. Saturday at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty in Livonia. Second Bananas will also be registering extras for its database for other film projects. There is a \$20 fee to register onsite. Details: [www.extrasinmichigan.com](http://www.extrasinmichigan.com).

## Help for local family

The Red Dog Saloon in Milford is throwing a party Saturday to help a local family through very tough times.

Bonnie Staneck of Commerce Township is undergoing treatment for breast cancer -- for the second time. And since her husband, Jim, lost his job, the family has had no health insurance. Red Dog Saloon is holding a family-friendly event to help defray the family's medical costs. Starting at noon in the

parking lot, there will be a dunk tank, casino games and raffles; six bands have signed on to play. Red Dog servers will do their part by donating 50% of their tips to the Staneck family. The Red Dog Saloon is at 250 W. Summit. Details: [www.redogsaloon.com](http://www.redogsaloon.com).

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