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Local Beer Expert Achieves Certified Cicerone Status

KALAMAZOO -- A local expert in beer says less can be more, if you pick the right bottle. Only 17 people in the U.S. and three in Michigan have achieved Certified Cicerone Status, as a top level expert in ales and lagers. It's like earning a black belt in beer.

Andrew Van Til, who works for Imperial Beverage in Kalamazoo says if you just drink Bud, or some other mass brand, you are missing so much.

"Worlds of flavor, variations of different beer styles...really, the history of beer," observes Van Til.

He says a lot of them are Michigan beers, he says this state has some great craft brews, starting with Bells made in Kalamazoo.

"[There are] brands like Founder's in Grand Rapids, Arcadia in Battle Creek, New Holland out of Holland...all making just top notch world-class beer," says Van Til.

His expertise not only gives him the background to pick good beers, but to recommend which beer goes with which occasions and foods.