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Bistros on tap

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Michigan Gear



By **CATHERINE KAVANAUGH**
Of Journal Register News Service

ROYAL OAK – While creating the menu for What Crepe?, owner Paul Jenkins Jr. and the two chefs he recruited from Asian restaurants went through a lot of dough.

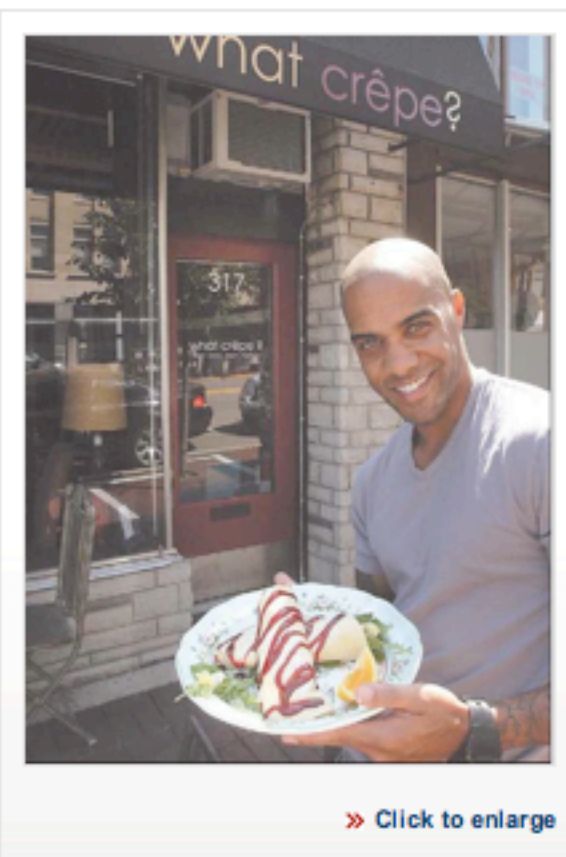
Jenkins, 35, of Birmingham said he looked for chefs without experience in creating the national dish of France for a creperie modeled after his favorite eatery in Toronto.

"I needed someone fresh without bad habits," Jenkins said. "It might look simple but it takes a lot of finesse to get the size, symmetry and texture right. We rolled 100 to 200 crepes a day until we mastered it."

What Crepe?, 317 S. Washington, serves 50 kinds of sweet and savory filled pancakes for \$6.50 to \$10.50 for breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert. Still, Jenkins said something is missing.

"Some wine would be so perfect," Jenkins said, adding he hopes to say bonjour to one of the city's new bistro licenses. What Crepe? and Cloverleaf Fine Wine & Craft Beer Cellar, 711 S. Main St., are the first applicants for Royal Oak's bistro licenses — a new and stricter alternative to the Class C and resort liquor licenses to sell on-premise alcohol.

A bistro is a small restaurant, 2,250-square feet or less, with a full-service kitchen and



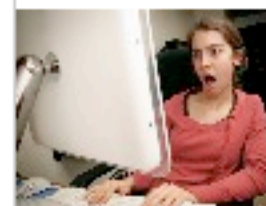
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