



A super spread for your super party



LISA F. YOUNG/SHUTTERSTOCK

Gearing up for Sunday's big game? 'Go Local' when planning your food, beverage menu

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The Itemizer-ObsERVER

You have your team. You have your select group of family members and friends coming over. You have your Super Bowl decorations.

Now to the game-day menu. Tortilla chips and guacamole? Chicken wings and celery? Pizza? Ribs? Hamburgers on the grill?

OK, so all of those are tried-and-true game-day munchies. But a little creativity with the menu — and buying local — could turn your game gathering into a Super Bowl home-viewing bash.

Steve Segal of Capricorn Catering in Dallas has some experience in whipping up game-day spreads. He recommends building it around an assortment of appetizers, so people can snack throughout the game without having to dish up a

Let's Kick It Off

Who: Seattle Seahawks (14-4, NFC No. 1) vs. New England Patriots (14-4, AFC No. 1).
What: Super Bowl XLIX.
When: Sunday, 3:30 p.m. PST.
Where: University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, Ariz.
TV: NBC (KGW, Channel 8).
Radio: KXTG-AM 750.
Betting line: New England favored by 1 point.

dinner plate.

"It's a nice way to keep the budget down and still be able to provide a nice variety of things to accommodate people," Segal said.

A popular centerpiece on his menu of offering is antipasto kebabs with a balsamic reduction. He also recommends having a little

fun with your favorite team's logo by stamping it onto mini pastries. Along with the usual coffee and tea, Segal suggests a seasonal punch, such as cranberry and lime.

Of course, it wouldn't be Super Bowl Sunday without some beverage for the 21-and-older crowd. Segal said with beer and wine, nothing beats what is available in the Willamette Valley. In Oregon, we have an embarrassment of riches in both categories, so the perfect companion to the game-day menu shouldn't be hard to find.

"Rogue (Ales) is wonderful and it's local," Segal said, referring to the brewery's hopyard, Rogue Farms, in Independence.

Rogue offers an extensive collection of styles — some very unique, like its series of Voodoo Doughnut-inspired brews (Lemon Chiffon Crueller Ale or Chocolate, Peanut

Butter Banana Ale anyone?) — making it likely guests will find something to their liking.

Oregonians are equally as lucky with the selections of local vino. Segal's favorite Polk County vineyards include Chateau Bianca, Eola Hill Wine Cellars, Namaste and Illahe.

"We are very fortunate to have the best pinot in the world," he said.

Segal said buying from local farms, breweries and wineries ensures the money you spend stays in the area — and can make for a spread that is far from typical game-watching fare.

"Comparison shopping is always a nice thing to do, but spending your money locally is a nice touch, if you can do it," he said. "It actually ends up being less expensive and the items are in season."

SUPER BOWL XLIX GAME FACTS

- Super Bowl XLIX marks only the 11th time out of 49 Super Bowls that the No. 1 seed from the NFC will play the No. 1 seed from the AFC. This is also the second straight season that has happened.
- The Seattle Seahawks are attempting to become the first team since, ironically, the New England Patriots (2004 and 2005) to win back-to-back championships.
- New England's Tom Brady will be the first quarterback to have played in six Super Bowls.
- Each player on the winning Super Bowl team will receive \$97,000; each player on the losing team will receive \$49,000.

SUPER BOWL TRIVIA

- Q:** Which team won the first Super Bowl?
A: Green Bay. The Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10, in Super Bowl I on Jan. 15, 1967.
- Q:** Which team has won the most Super Bowls?
A: Pittsburgh. The Steelers have won six (1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 2005, 2008).
- Q:** Which current NFL teams have never played in a Super Bowl?
A: Cleveland Browns, Detroit Lions, Houston Texans and Jacksonville Jaguars.
- Q:** What is the most total points scored in a Super Bowl game?
A: 75. The San Francisco 49ers defeated the San Diego Chargers 49-26 in Super Bowl XXIX in 1995.
- Q:** Has a team ever won a Super Bowl in overtime?
A: No Super Bowl game has ever gone to overtime.
- Q:** Who is the youngest starting quarterback to have won a Super Bowl?
A: Ben Roethlisberger. He led the Steelers to a 21-10 win over the Seahawks in Super Bowl XL (2006) at the age of 23.

SUPER BOWL FUN FACTS

Did you know ...

- The Super Bowl is usually measured in Roman numerals because the NFL's season runs over two calendar years. This year's Super Bowl is XLIX. Next year, the NFL will simply refer to the Game as Super Bowl 50 for its 50th anniversary.
- The Super Bowl is second only to Thanksgiving as the nation's highest day of food consumption.
- Based on past estimates, Americans will drink more than 325 million gallons of beer on Super Bowl Sunday.
- More than 700,000 footballs are produced annually for official NFL use; 72 of them are used for the Super Bowl.
- The average 30-second commercial during the Super Bowl will cost \$4.5 million this year. A similar ad spot last year cost an average of \$4 million.
- When it comes to watching the Super Bowl, 9 out of 10 viewers are going to be at home — either their home or someone else's.

Sources for Super Bowl facts and trivia: FoxSports.com, ESPN.com, NFL.com, SuperBowl.com, Nielsen Company, wix.com, sportstrivia.com.