



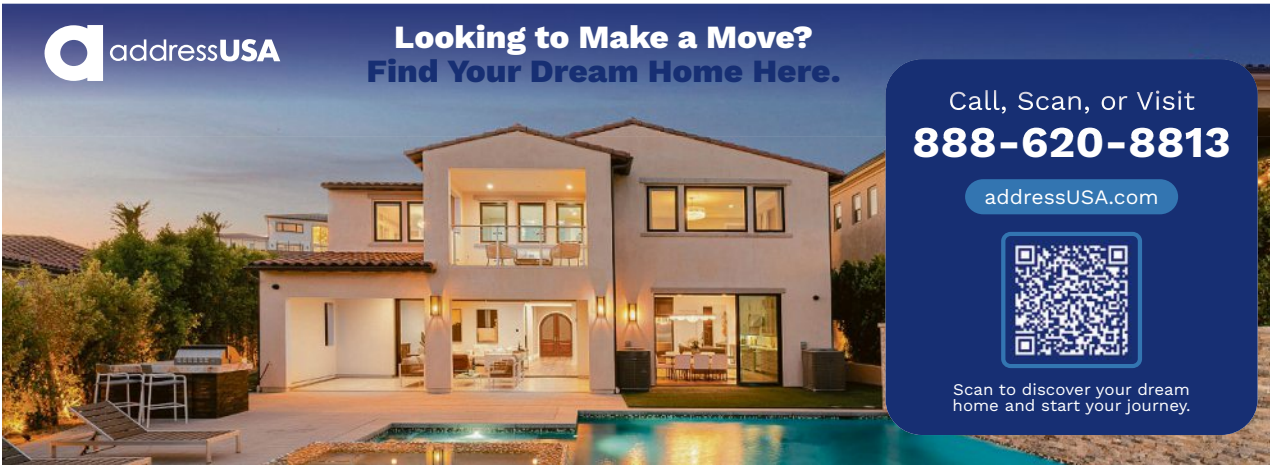
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Venado Wine Bar is relocating to a larger space at 303 N. Third St. in downtown Wausau, with expanded food, wine and event offerings. PROVIDED BY VENADO WINE BAR

Venado Wine Bar plans for expansion

Will move to new downtown Wausau location

Nida Tazeen
Wausau Daily Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

WAUSAU – Venado Wine Bar plans to relocate to a larger space at 303 N. Third St. in downtown Wausau as the business expands its offerings and operations. According to a community announcement, owners Lesli and Juan Casarrubias are moving ahead with the project after the city of Wausau approved a transfer of the business’s liquor license.

The wine bar opened in downtown Wausau in 2023 and has focused on making wine approachable for customers. The owners said the new location, which is currently home to Forward Beverage Co., will allow the business to increase seating and introduce additional food, beverage and event offerings while remaining downtown.

The expanded venue is expected to feature a larger wine selection, including wines available by the glass and bottle, limited releases and collectible of-

ferings. Cocktails and spirits also will be available.

The business plans to add lunch and dinner service, private events, wine tastings and educational programs. The new location also will continue the recently launched Venado Collector’s Series, according to the announcement.

Expansion includes food program and events

The owners said the food program will incorporate Mexican influences, European inspiration and Wisconsin ingredients. The menu is intended to complement wine service and focus on shareable dishes.

Venado also plans to host private gatherings, curated experiences and wine education opportunities in the larger space.

The interior design will include features such as a live-edge bar, additional seating, artwork and upgraded glassware, according to the announcement.

“We never wanted Venado to simply be a place where someone comes in, has a glass of wine and leaves,” said Juan Casarrubias. “We want people to walk through the door, relax, discover something, have a conversation and feel genuinely taken care of. The new location gives us the opportunity to take that ex-

perience much further.”

Owners cite community support

The Casarrubiases said customer support has played a major role in the business’s growth.

“The most meaningful part of Venado has always been the people,” said Lesli Casarrubias. “Our guests have supported us, celebrated with us and become our friends. As Venado grows, we want to preserve that feeling. We may be moving into a larger space, but we never want Venado to lose its heart.”

The owners said the move reflects a continued investment in downtown Wausau because the new location is only a short distance from the current business site at 209 Grant St.

An opening date has not been announced. The wine bar will continue operating from its current downtown location while renovation work, menu development, furnishing installation and staff training continue.

This story was produced by reporter Nida Tazeen, NTazeen@usatoday.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

Mosquito season may stretch deeper into fall

Blaise Mesa
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

With multiple seasonal forecasts calling for a warmer-than-normal fall across Wisconsin, residents might not be the only ones enjoying the unseasonable heat. The state’s mosquito population is likely to love it too.

PJ Liesch, director of the UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab, said he wouldn’t be surprised if mosquitoes are around longer into the fall if temperatures are indeed warmer.

“There’s always some uncertainty,” Liesch said. “[But], based on the weather we’ve been seeing the last few weeks, and if those warm temperatures continue into the fall, it wouldn’t surprise me if folks were simply noticing mosquitoes later into the calendar year.”

Wisconsin is home to more than 50 different species of mosquito. It’s hard to say what will happen to each of those species if warm weather sticks around longer than normal, he said. Not all of them require the same conditions for breeding, and some do better in urban areas, while others hide away in hollow trees as winter approaches.

The arrival of cold weather is what really keeps mosquitoes and other insects away. Insects become less active when the temperature falls below 60 degrees and inactive when temperatures dip below 50 degrees, Liesch said.

While future weather conditions will determine how long mosquitoes remain a pest, Liesch said all it takes is one or two active species to make mosquitoes feel unbearable later in the year.

“We won’t know until we actually get into September and October and so on,” he said.

“But we have had some conditions that could potentially set the stage for that.”

What will fall weather be like in Wisconsin?

The Old Farmer’s Almanac calls for a cool, dry fall. But that cool fall could see a warmer-than-average October. AccuWeather’s forecast says “it may not be until October before the first intrusions of chilly air arrive in the north-central Plains, Great Lakes and Northeast.”

A “very strong El Niño” is expected to influence fall weather nationwide, said Paul Pastelok, AccuWeather lead long-range expert. That could keep warmer temperatures around for longer.

“When you have a strong El Niño, it changes the weather pattern across

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