



# 19 September 2018 Sky Events – the Planets

## A Waxing Moon Near a Polished Mars

- ★ There is still time to enjoy bright **Mars** before the planet recedes and dims later this month.
- ★ On the evening of **Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**, the *Red Planet* will be joined by a **waxing gibbous Moon**, and both objects will demand attention. Mars beams at magnitude  $-1.6$ , slightly dimmer than glowing Jupiter to the west.
- ★ On this night, the Moon is a mere 249 thousand miles away, but the ruddy world is **50 times** more distant than its lunar partner, at 49 million miles. And contrary to popular hoaxes, the two objects NEVER appear identical in size to our naked eye. **EVER.**



Image courtesy of Sky & Telescope