

Conjunction of Venus with Antares

- an October 2021 Sky Event from the [Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)

During the early evening hours of **October 15th, 2021**, the brilliant planet **Venus** will appear to hover above the brightest star in the constellation Scorpius – **Antares**.

As seen from Earth, Antares is the 15th brightest star in the night skies. It is a red supergiant star that is intrinsically 65,000 times more luminous than our Sun! But at a distance of 550 light years, it appears much fainter than Venus.

Because Antares is located along the ecliptic (the path across Earth's sky that the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to follow), it is involved with many juxtapositions with solar system objects, like Venus.



In sky lore, the star Antares represents the heart of the Scorpion. The name “Antares” comes from the Greek language, meaning “rival (ant) of Mars” (Ares is what the Greeks called the planet Mars, and Ares was their god of war). The name refers to the similar red hue displayed by both Mars and the star. They “rivaled” each other in their redness!

Find an unobstructed view low to the southwest and enjoy this wonderful conjunction of the planet Venus with Mar’s rival! ***