

## The Crescent Moon Sails by Saturn and Venus in the constellation Capricornus

On the nights of **January 22-24**, the waxing crescent Moon sails by the gas giant planet Saturn and brilliant Venus in constellation Capricornus, the Sea Goat. Venus is now climbing higher each night in our sky, while Saturn is descending lower each night toward the horizon – soon to depart until late summer. On the night of Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, the two planets will appear less than  $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  apart, as they trade positions in the sky.

Joining the show is the bright southern hemisphere star “Fomalhaut” – an Arabic name that means “mouth of the (southern) fish”.

Saturn is located some 998 million miles (89 light minutes) behind the Moon, while Venus is a much closer 143 million miles (13 light minutes) away.

