

Astronomy Club of Asheville
September 2026 Sky Events

Shortly after sunset on **September 1st**, the planet Venus may be observed beaming near the bright star Spica in the constellation Virgo – the Maiden. You will need an unobstructed view low to the W-SW horizon to watch this conjunction.

Venus, glowing at a brilliant magnitude of -4.5, easily outshines Spica, and, on this night, it is some 51 million miles away (4½ light minutes). Using a small telescope, Venus will reveal itself as a waning crescent shape that is only 38% illuminated. Its crescent shape will continue to shrink this month, as Venus moves on its inside track to overtake Earth in its shorter journey about the Sun. This will be the last month to easily observe Venus in our evening skies this year, as Venus reaches “inferior conjunction” (passing between the Earth and the Sun) in October.

Venus Joins Up with Spica

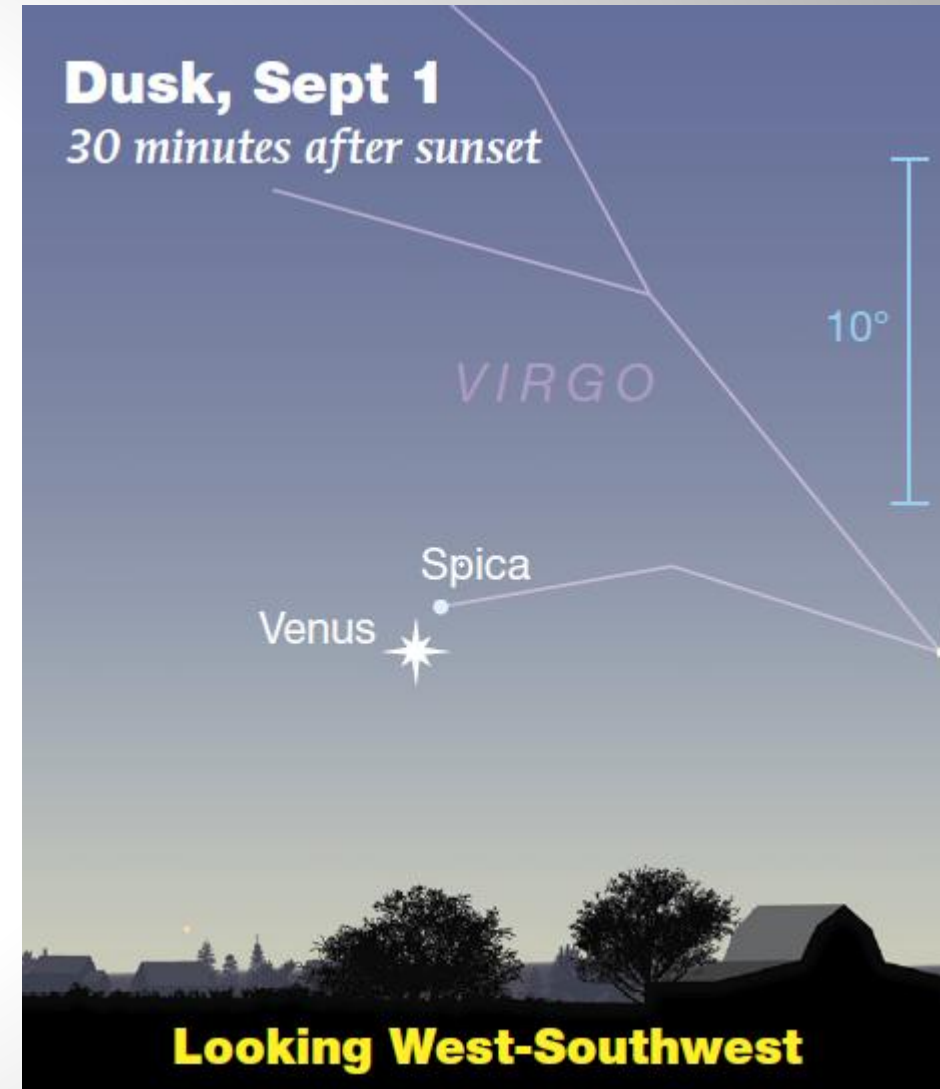


Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)