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## Nico Wine bringing tasting bar, retail shop to Midtown's Ice Blocks

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A wine bar with a retail component is the newest business joining Midtown Sacramento's Ice Blocks project.

Nico Wine is expected to open this summer, said owner Nico Corich. The business will be at 1710 R St., Suite 180, next to Pressed Juicery and across from Philz Coffee. Nico Wine will fill about 454 square feet inside, and 200 square feet outside, Corich said.

It will specialize in natural wines, which Corich summarized as "nothing added, nothing taken away." Natural wines don't include added elements such as sugars, he said. They also don't go through an intense filtering process. Approximately 80% of the wines at the business will be natural, Corich said.

Customers will be able to drink wine at the business, or buy a bottle to take home. Corich said he'll have wine on tap. The location doesn't have a kitchen, but Corich said he plans to work with a caterer to sell picnic boxes at Nico Wine. He said he also expects to work with a chocolate-maker from Chicago to offer chocolates that can be paired with the store's wines.

The idea for Nico Wine began four years ago, Corich said. He learned about Newberg, Oregon-based Swick Wines during a trip to an Oregon wine shop. Led by winemaker Joseph Swick, the business aims "to make our wines as naked and raw as we possibly can while having them be fun and delicious," according to its website.

Corich worked with Swick during harvest time, and considered winemaking as a profession. He decided, however, that he'd rather sell other people's wines, since he was better skilled in marketing.

Corich most recently worked in Oakland as a lead strategist for mobile payment company Square Inc. (NYSE: SQ). Through that job, Corich said he learned about small businesses and local merchants.

He moved to Sacramento to be closer to his now-fiancee. He said it was also the perfect place to finally move forward with his business idea. "Sacramento was the lightbulb above my head," he said.

Ice Blocks developer Mike Heller said he's excited about the latest addition to the project. "Our goal is to keep fine tuning our tenant roster with creative new concepts like this," Heller wrote in an email.

Corich expects to feature an assortment of winemakers at his business, including Swick Wines, West Sacramento-based Haarmeyer Wine Cellars and Somerset-based La Clarine Farm, among others. "These are individuals or small groups of people who are out there doing their own thing," Corich said.



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Nico Wine is expected to open this summer in Midtown Sacramento's Ice Blocks project.

Locally owned Ro Sham Beaux is also a Midtown Sacramento business that specializes in natural wines. Corich said the two businesses are "similar, but slightly different" and complement each other nicely.

**Sonya Sorich**

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