LIFESTYLE THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022 DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE

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Summertime sips and nibbles

Limoncello and marinated olives perfect for entertaining

Fargo his week I am taking a trip down Memory Lane with two recipes from the vault that are among my favorite summertime staples -Homemade Limoncello and Tony's Marinated Olives. These are recipes from the early days of this column and these Italian specialties are the perfect sips and nibbles for easy and delicious summer entertaining. "Sweet, bright and bracing, limoncello is traditionally served chilled after a meal, as a 'digestivo' to aid in digestion." That is how I described this lemony nectar when I first introduced the recipe, but





limoncello is excellent anytime it is served, especially on sizzling summer days. We store our limoncello in the freezer to ensure that it is as cool and refreshing as possible, and I use 100proof vodka to keep it from freezing.

This citrus cordial is surprisingly simple to

Forum file photos

Above: Tony's Marinated Olives are great to nibble. Top: Limoncello is a refreshing cordial made from the zest of lemons. Start making yours now to have it ready for the Fourth of July.

make and requires just five ingredients: lemons, sugar, vodka, water... and time. Patience is a must, as the liqueur needs time to steep and absorb all the essence from the zest of 15 lemons. This can

take anywhere from 10 to 40 days, depending on how long you can wait, and now is exactly the right time to make a batch so that it is ready when summer weather finally arrives. Once the

limoncello is ready, you can enjoy it as a cordial or in a cocktail, and it is also great drizzled over ice cream and cake.

Tony's Marinated Olives

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'Top Gun: Maverick' improves on original

Edina, Minn. hey never said where it was, did they?' One of the people emerging from a Monday preview screening of "Top Gun: Maverick" realized this only after the credits had rolled at the AMC Southdale 16.

Well, no. The film didn't, exactly, say where the target was. There were allusions to a rogue state that did not yet possess nuclear weapons, so you can fill in the blanks regarding the mountainous landscape where Maverick and his fellow flyers race to destroy a nuclear processing facility (before any radioactive material is delivered, we're assured) in a time frame pegged at about 30 years after Union, but at a time when the events of the original "Top Gun" (1986).



The generic references to "the enemy" are among the many details that director Joseph Kosinki's sequel lifts from the original more directly than you might realize if it's been a while since you saw Tom Cruise's previous outing as Pete "Maverick" Mitchell. In the first film, our unambiguously American heroes do battle with MiG fighter jets similar to those fielded by the Soviet

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Tom Cruise plays Capt. Pete "Maverick" Mitchell in "Top Gun: Maverick."