



Acqua in Vino

ARNY RODRIGUEZ
BRINGS SPECIALITY
FOODS AND DRINKS TO
DOWNTOWN WAYLAND

Photos and Story by Phil Eich,
Storyville Social, as part of the
Michigan Main Street Story
Series

At Acqua in Vino, we have specialty wines, cheeses, beers, and bourbons. It's all upper-end specialty things, and we can pour by the glass. We do pouring and pairing on Friday nights, no reservations required, and I cook right here. My dad always talked about running a restaurant and having Mexican and Italian food because that's what we had growing up, so if you look around, that's what I have here.

I initially looked at this property as an investor. Someone had told me if I bought it and updated it, they would rent the space from me and open a wine and cheese shop. So, I invested, and at the last minute, they backed out.

So I said, 'OK, I'll do it.'

My parents met while my

dad was serving in the military during WWII. My mother was from Rome, and my father, although he was born in Texas, his family was from Chihuahua, Mexico. He was stationed in Vienna, Austria, and because the pilots needed to have hours in the air, he used to hitchhike on the planes back and forth to Rome. One day, he and his buddy were on a bus sightseeing there when he saw my mother standing on the street. He looked at his friend and said, 'I'm going to marry that woman.' So he got off at the next stop, ran back, introduced himself, and that was it.

- Arny Rodriguez, Owner of
Acqua in Vino



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