

TASTE

DINING

Area Starbucks launch evening wine, beer menus

By SARAH BLASKOVICH
Staff writer
sblaskovich@dallasnews.com

Don't call it a coffee shop anymore: Starbucks shops in Dallas and Fort Worth transformed into wine and beer bars this week.

The three Starbucks *The Dallas Morning News* could confirm as early participants are at the Shops at Park Lane in Dallas, at Lemmon Avenue and Inwood Road in Dallas, and in Sundance Square in Fort Worth.

However, we've been tracking Starbucks licenses with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for months, and stores in Southlake, McKinney, Carrollton, Flower Mound, Lewisville, Coppell, Mansfield, Highland Park, Murphy, Plano and Irving have also applied for or received licenses to sell beer and wine.

All three debut a new Starbucks Evenings food and drink menu. And although it's technically an afternoon/evening menu, each store is offering food samples in the early mornings. Alcoholic beverages become available in the afternoon at all three locations.

Expect four bottled beers: Fireman's #4, Stone Brewing Co.'s saison, a Saint Arnold beer and a local one — McKinney brewery Franconia's wheat beer. The stores are also selling a sparkling wine, four whites and five reds. Drinks cost about \$6 to \$12.

The food is tapas-style dishes, made for sharing or snacking instead of grab-



Starbucks

The Starbucks Evenings menus include wine, beer and a selection of small plates, tailored to regional tastes.

and-go.

The new Starbucks Evenings food in Dallas and Fort Worth includes:

- Spinach artichoke dip served with pita chips.
- Truffle mac and cheese with parmesan bread crumbs.
- Two flatbreads: chicken sausage and mushroom; artichoke and goat cheese.
- Cheese plate with Irish cheddar, goat cheese, dried apricot.
- Salami plate.
- Beef and Italian sausage meatballs.
- Bacon-wrapped dates stuffed with chorizo and topped with a balsamic glaze.
- Breaded chicken breast skewers served with honey dijon sauce on the side.
- Truffled popcorn.

The truffled popcorn is the least expensive item, at \$2.45.

The flatbreads are the highest, at \$6.95.

Will the new TABC license prohibit minors from entering Starbucks during drinking hours? No, says Chris Porter, public information officer for TABC. All three Starbucks have a beer and wine retailer's on-premise license, which is a long way of saying their licenses are similar to those of restaurants.

"Provided the minors aren't served alcohol," Porter says, "the retailer may allow them on the premises at any time during business hours."

The participating Starbucks stores are at 8026 Park Lane, Dallas, in the Shops at Park Lane; 5715 Lemmon Ave., Dallas; and 141 W. Third St., Fort Worth.

Maria Halkias contributed to this story.