

## [Investor breathes life into Madera radar station](#)



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A former Cold War radar station in Madera is seeing new life as an event facility thanks to a local investor who has poured nearly \$2 million into the project so far.

Ron Patterson, a self-described buyer of "beat-up junk buildings," purchased the former Madera Air Force Station back in October for \$750,000 and is currently turning the 41-acre site into a destination attraction complete with three on-site commercial wineries, a wedding chapel, a full-service banquet hall and a patio with gathering space for up to 300 people. The project is expected to employ up to 50

people at first.

The first phase of the project is expected to be complete by July. So far, Patterson, CEO of Redi-Corp, has spent about \$1 million renovating the project, which he expects to cost up to \$10 million at full build-out. Future plans for the project, called Twin Palms Village, include a chocolate factory, history museum and a 35-room hotel.

The facility used to serve as home to the 774 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron starting in the 1950s. The station was decommissioned in 1966 and served as an Indian school and vocational training center run by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs for 15 years. Afterward, the government sold the property to a Southern California investor, who listed the property on the market for about two years before Patterson bought it.

It consists of about 28 different buildings ranging in size from 500-11,000 square feet. Patterson said its set on rolling terrain about three miles northeast of Madera.

"It sets itself up nice as a destination location," Patterson said.

Patterson said the three wineries — Vino 774 Winery, Balbas-American Winery and Bellinio Winery — are start-up operations that will include tasting rooms. Vino 774 Winery will be named in honor of the 774 Squadron and feature domestic and dessert wines. Balbas-American Winery features European Wines and Bellinio Winery will feature South American wines.

Patterson said other tenants are lined up, but there is room for more.

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