



# LISA'S LOUNGE



**C'MON IN.**

**WHERE LAUGHTER, LIBATIONS  
+ LOVIN' LIFE REPEAT HISTORY.**

story + photos by Sue Rawlinson-Pais

*Affectionately referred to as "Lisa's Lounge," this privately-owned condo residence buzzes with life, music + joy... respectfully reminiscent of the Spink's colorful years-gone-by.*





<<< It's always a party at Lisa's Lounge, where smiles, good times + loving lake life are alive and well.

Far left: Meet Lake Wawasee's Lisa Hill.

Below: This vibrant, red sculpture greets guests as they enter her home.

If ever there was a tangible energy alive within one's walls, its electric energy is a buzzing within the residence of Lisa Hill. Her Lake Wawasee Spink condo, named by friends and family as "Lisa's Lounge," is just that: a lounge where loved ones are welcome any time, rain or shine.

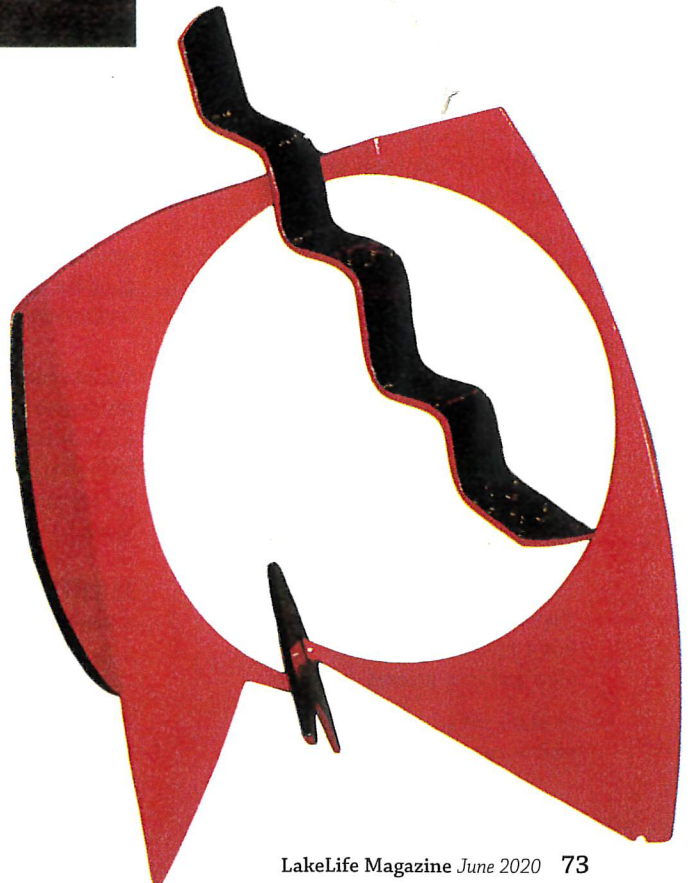
And what can be expected? A smile, a hug, great music, laughter and the drink of your choice. Hill's bar is always open, stocked—and ready to accommodate visitors.

At Lisa's Lounge, friends and family know it is here where they can unwind. And *unlike* the

elegant attire on the same grounds in the '20s and '30s, today, the more relaxed, the better. "It's a very casual atmosphere here," she smiled. "There's no need to dress up when sunglasses and lipstick will do just fine."

Yes, it's always a celebration at Lisa's Lounge. A celebration of lake life. Of family. Of friends. Of joyful spirits and zest for the beauty in life. And, tasty, award-winning sauce from two-generations of beautiful Italian ladies.

**LakeLife Magazine?**  
**Welcome to Lisa's Lounge.**







## About Wawasee Spink Condos

- » During the '20s and '30s, the Spink was a world-class resort, hotel and casino, attracting the very wealthy from Illinois, movie stars and entertainers who are part of great American history.
- » Lake Wawasee was known for the best in music and dancing. Cab Calloway, Glen Miller, Hoky Carmichael, Ted Weems, Guy Lombardo, Woody Herman and other big band names stayed at the Spink, some playing in the ballroom.
- » Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were frequent guests of the Spink.
- » Big gamblers from Chicago also frequented, including Al Capone and his henchmen.
- » The Spink is named after Edgar G. Spink of Indianapolis, the builder of the complex.
- » Following the death of Mr. Spink in 1927, his daughters ran the operations of the hotel.
- » High-stakes gambling, Prohibition booze, big band music and dancing in the ballroom all took place here. Later, the facility transitioned into a seminary and prep school, and in 1984, it transformed yet again, into the luxury condominiums we see today.
- » The Wawasee Spink Condos face west, so spectacular sunsets are guaranteed, year-round.
- » Sunset Hill is a popular gathering spot for Spink's residents. Sunset Hill has a firepit, tiki torches—a great view and cool breezes.
- » To learn more, visit [www.wawaseepink.com](http://www.wawaseepink.com).

"Truly a beautiful woman, inside and out, my mother *loved* hosting parties and making everyone feel welcome," Hill said.

And 'more the merrier' remains the mantra at Lisa's Lounge. It's part of her genetics, we might say. But her welcoming presence and culinary expertise aren't the only influences from her mom. So, too, is her affection for Lake Wawasee.

Raised in Fort Wayne and educated at Saint Mary's College Notre Dame, Ind., Hill lived full-time for most of her years in South Bend — but Lake Wawasee was always her refuge. "My parents had a home up here (on Lake Wawasee)," she said. "I've been coming to this lake since the early '70s, during summer weekends."

And even years later, as Hill worked a demanding (yet fulfilling) job as vice president of sales for a technology company, weekend getaways to her condo at the Spink were a means to decompress and unwind.

But life changed for Hill in 2012. It was then when she said good-bye to busy corporate life. "I decided to leave my job," she said. "I sold my home in South Bend, and moved here to my 'happy place' full-time."

And as the selfless among us do, she now enjoys *sharing* her happy place with family, friends and neighbors. "To me, lake life is friends, family and fun!" she said. "People come to the lake to relax and have a good time...it's about boating, cookouts, cocktails, sports, games and lots of laughs."

Yes, like mother, like daughter. Owning residences at The Spink, too, is a bit of a family tradition. Lisa and her brother both own condos here, as did, you guessed it: "My mother, too, owned a condo at the Spink."

### MAKING IT HER OWN

When Hill purchased her condo in 2005, it was a turnkey purchase, the previous owner leaving everything in its place. "Its Tommy Bahama theme was very cool," she said, "and as a second home, the theme worked well, but when I decided to live

here full-time, I wanted it to reflect my personality and my love for hosting and entertaining."

So with the help of Goshen's Red Door Design and Yoder Kitchen Corp., Hill transformed the former island-beach vibe to one of rich comfort and sophistication with a Mid-century modern theme.

### THE EXPERIENCE

As did the Spink's guests of yesteryear, today, those visiting Lisa's Lounge know this: they're about to have an experience—one of laughter, fun and companionship. And the redesign of Hill's condo is one that's meticulously prepared to meet the expectation. Beginning with the entrance to her condo, a fun, bright red sculpture awaits beside the door, as if saying, 'over here, friends.'

### COLORS + SEATING

Once indoors, the varied lines and colorful theme of rich reds, brilliant oranges and the abundance of natural light, to which all lakers are drawn, tell friends that they're right at home. In fact, there's a culmination of textures, unique artwork and multiple casual, yet quietly elegant seating areas. Together, these areas fulfill their intention to encourage guests to, well, have a seat and stay a while.

Hill's home is a showcase of Mid-century modern design with a fabulous combination of mixed textures, from floor to ceiling. With clean lines, organic curves and various fabrics, Hill's sleek style and vibrant color selections reflect her welcoming personality. And the comfort visitors feel when they sink into her furniture? It's the real deal.

Offering multiple seating arrangements — from leather couches to her retro velvet Mid-century accent chairs to the Mid-century lounge chairs — there's a perfect chair for any gathering of guests. Each setting is arranged to maximize comfort, encourage conversation and offer ample seating for just a few friends over coffee to many guests at once. "Ten people will squeeze in around this table for dinner," she said.





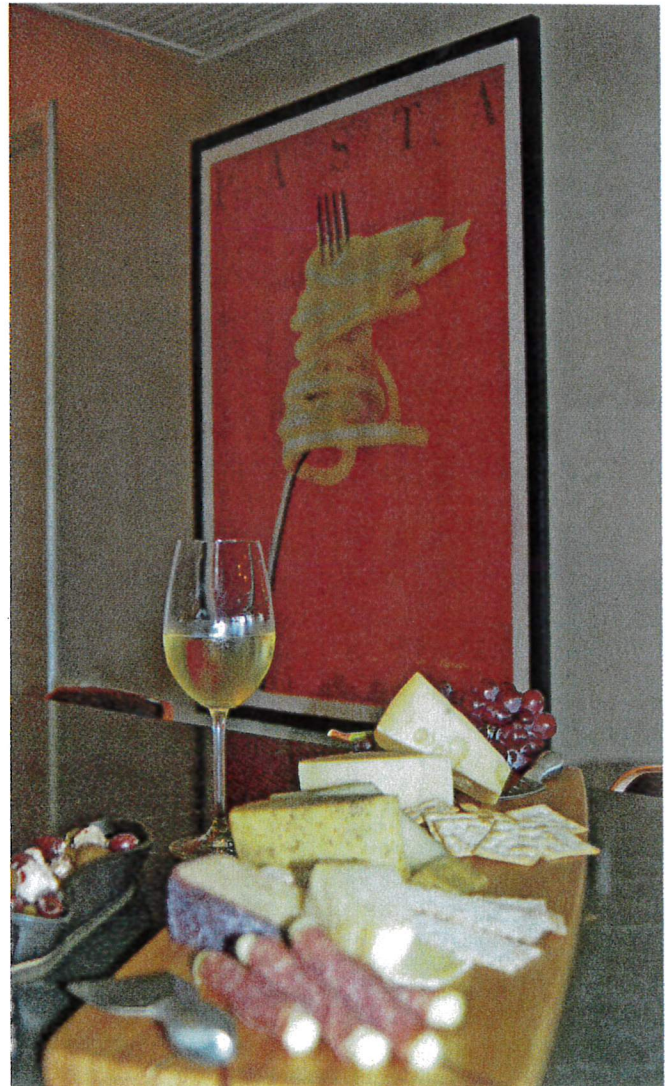
<<< A busy kitchen, ideal for this Italian chef and an ideal area for guests to gather. These wooden barstools are comfortable for guests as they visit and enjoy one of Hill's gorgeous charcuterie boards.



<<< A framed photo of Hill's mother. A Jackie O look-alike? Yes, we'd say so.

**Bottom Left** A main gathering area in the "Lounge," these red swivel chairs are, indeed, as cozy as they appear.

**Bottom Right** One of Hill's favorite pieces of artwork, honoring her heritage, her culinary craft—and certainly her bold, beautiful interior color scheme.





**Homes** *Featured Home, cont'd*

On pasta night with her pals, this pillow-laden seating area is full of friends, laughter and very satisfied appetites. >>>



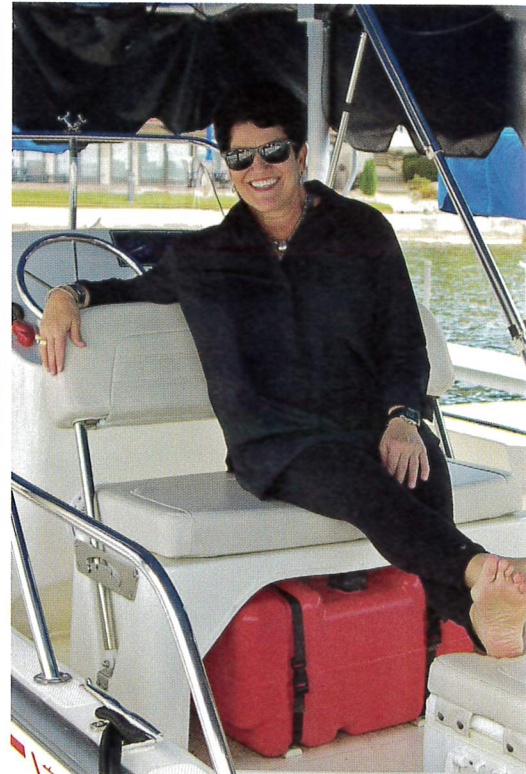
The fully-stocked bar is always open at Lisa's Lounge. >>>



**Lower left:** The view from Sunset Hill on a sunny day at Wawasee.

**Lower middle:** Even the bathroom is beautifully designed, bold in color and rich in fun artwork.

**Lower right:** Hill, happy and relaxed on her Boston Whaler Montauk.







**Top:** The lighting throughout Lisa's Lounge is nothing short of beautiful brilliance.

**Middle:** Accessories add extra personality in this lively home... and each holds a story all its own.

**Bottom:** One of the two outdoor seating areas for guests to gather, while watching lake life, visiting with friends, and soaking in the sunshine.

## COOKING, THE ITALIAN WAY

And while Lisa's Lounge is certainly *not* a public restaurant, for her friends and family, it's *even better*. From her kitchen, which is as functional as it is beautiful, the most delectable cheese platters, charcuterie boards and the finest of wines will be served.

But aside from an abundance of snacking, if her friends are fortunate enough, it'll be a night of Italian cooking. And no, Ragu® will *not* be on the menu.

In true, bigger-than-life fashion, this Italian culinary queen will serve her red sauce—another reflection of her mother's influence. "My mother taught me to make the sauce," she said. "Yes, I'll frequently serve our award-winning Italian red sauce, pasta, salad and nice red wine," she said. "I make extra because guests of my guests are always welcome. The more the merrier!"

## ARTWORK

As is the case with many genuinely welcoming people, there is depth to all within Hill's world, including the artwork selected to adorn the walls, and each (albeit few) carefully chosen décor adorning shelves and counters. Whether it's a limoncello canister on the kitchen granite, the Italian artwork on the wall or the framed photo of Hill's mother, there are stories accompanying all pieces. In fact all stories shared were weaved between two life themes: Hill's Italian family heritage and her Jackie O lookalike mother.

## LIGHTING

Lighting in Lisa's Lounge is a commonly appreciated design element. During the day, natural light flows throughout the

living area, but come evening? The glow further emphasizes why her home is referred to as Lisa's Lounge. The lounge-like lighting, and even that of her electric fireplace, create a most welcoming, relaxing ambiance. The Fenoglio black drum light over the dining table, various wall sconces and the mobile chandelier all add a relaxing, even elegant, enhancement.

## MUSIC

As lighting can affect mood, Hill also understands the powerful effects of music. It's transformational. That's why she's prepared with the ideal background music. "Dinner music would include crooners like Sinatra, Armstrong and Buble," she said. But don't get too comfortable and cozy—there's no napping at Lisa's Lounge. "Later in the evening, I'll play my 'no-stinkers' playlist which has lots of fun songs that tend to call for singing out loud," she said.

## OUTDOORS

And when sunset begins to paint the sky, the party often moves outdoors. Hill's colorful personality extends to her outdoor settings as well. With two separate seating areas, her guests may visit between the comfy couch or her patio dining table. Or perhaps they'd like a closer look at the water. If so, they can join Hill on a walk along the pier to see the boats, listen to the water lap upon the shore, or take a spin on her own Boston Whaler Montauk purchased from Griffith's Wawasee Marina. And from the water, it's easy to spot the glow of Lisa's Lounge — and to hear the crooning distant tunes.

To some, perhaps it feels reminiscent to stories of days gone by at the very same location...

There's ne'er a dull moment at Lisa's Lounge. With each detail meticulously designed, Hill finds great joy in helping provide for her friends and family the most complete lake experience—one that deepens the soul, creates memories, and ignites a celebration.

A celebration of present moments, and perhaps a 'cheers' with reverent nod to those of the past. 🍷