

# LOS GATOS

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An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Los Gatos  
The Heart of Los Gatos

# *Living*

*Cheers  
from the*

**Gali  
Family!**

Janice, Joseph,  
and Piper Gali







# Cheers from the Gali Family!

*By Genevieve Laucher  
Photos by Natalie Ladd*

**D**r. Joseph and Janice Gali, Los Gatans for over 30 years, combine Joseph's passion for farming with Janice's business expertise to make Gali Vineyards and their tasting room downtown a success.

Janice was born in Canada but moved to Cambrian Park with her family as a baby. She graduated from Leigh High School and then San Jose State, where she earned her degree in marketing and sociology.

Joseph was born in Antioch, Turkey, and graduated from medical school in Turkey before moving to the United States to do his residency in New York City. He had some family in Palo Alto and moved west after completing his residency. Dr. Gali began practicing as a pediatrician with Good Samaritan in 1988.

It was at Good Samaritan that Joseph met Janice, who was working as a pharmaceutical rep. They were married in 1990 and bought their home in Los Gatos in 1991, where they still live today. Both of their daughters were born and raised in Los Gatos. Their older daughter, Helena, is 28 and is following her father's footsteps as a physician. She is doing her residency at UC San Diego and is going to be an ophthalmologist. Their younger daughter, Madeline, who is 26, is following in Janice's footsteps in business and marketing. She works at an ad agency and also does the marketing for Gali Vineyards and works in the tasting room.

In 2003, the Gali family bought the property that is now their vineyard, in Watsonville/Corralitos up against the Mount Madonna foothills and about four miles from the ocean. Janice has experience in real estate, which helped them purchase the first 52-acre property and then also acquire the property next door to bring the total acreage to 66. Joseph has always loved gardening and wanted a large piece of land to grow different crops.

The land had a house on it, and it was a great second home especially when their daughters were younger. The Gali family could take quick trips to go to the beach on the weekends. Joseph first planted blueberries and sold them as Santa Cruz Blues at the Los Gatos, Saratoga, and sometimes San Francisco farmers markets. They did this as their daughters went through junior high and high school and it was a lot of fun. People in town who know Dr. Gali as a pediatrician were always surprised to see him selling blueberries, and now with a vineyard!

Knowing that the property, its location, and climate were perfect for growing grapes, Joseph and Janice decided to plant their vineyard in 2013, and their first vintage was in 2016. It takes about three to four years from harvest for the wines to taste just right. They are in the ideal area for pinot, chardonnay, and cool climate syrah and tempranillo because of the ocean breeze.





In the beginning, Gali Vineyards sold most of their grapes to other wineries and made a smaller amount of wine for themselves. However, since opening their tasting room in downtown Los Gatos in August 2021, they've been selling so much of their wine that Janice and Joseph have decided to use all their grapes for their own wine under their label going forward. In fact, the amount of wine they'd projected to sell in the first year had already been sold in just five months!

In 2020, Joseph planted another eight acres of vines in addition to the ten they already had. They grow the majority pinot and chardonnay, and syrah, tempranillo, and albariño in smaller amounts. Joseph is at the vineyard two to three days a week, still practices as a pediatrician three days a week, and works in the tasting room on Sundays. He has a crew that helps with pruning and picking at the vineyard, but he manages everything, drives the tractors, and does the mowing. It's a sustainable vineyard so fortunately it does not require much watering.

Meanwhile, Janice manages the tasting room, which is open Wednesday through Sunday at 21 W. Main Street. When she and Joseph entered the wine business, she learned as much as she could, taking viticulture classes at UC Davis and working in tasting rooms in Los Gatos and Saratoga. Now she really enjoys working in the Gali Vineyards tasting room with her family and their other wonderful employees. They wanted to bring part of the vineyard into the tasting room, so the bar top and all the tables are from the fallen white Cedar tree that was on the property. They also have a drone video of the vineyard playing on a monitor so the guests can enjoy the vineyard while they taste the wine. Guests may even meet Piper, the Gali family's fluffy blonde bernedoodle (Bernese mountain dog and poodle) in the tasting room!

The Gali Vineyards wine club is very popular, with members getting either four or six bottles of wine twice a year, four complimentary tastings per month in the tasting room, among other perks. For April's club pickup, the club members are invited out to the vineyard to have a tasting and a celebration there.

The tasting room is also open for private events and they've held birthday parties, anniversaries, wedding showers, and more. They also have live music on Sundays and rotate art from different artists to give artists exposure and change up the scenery in the tasting room. People in the community have really been enjoying the tasting room, and the Gali family has gotten great feedback.



Janice, Joseph, and their daughters love being part of the Los Gatos community and it's fun for them to get to meet and spend time with so many people in their tasting room. Come visit the Gali family at 21 W. Main Street and check out their website, [www.galivineyards.com](http://www.galivineyards.com)!