

**Ahlgren Vineyard****1998 Tre Vini Rossi
(Santa Cruz Mountains)**

5070 Not many wineries outside of Piedmont. Italy would deliberately blend Bordeaux varietals with Nebbiolo, and then age it for eight years before releasing it. Yet that is just what Dexter and Valerie **Ahlgren** did with sourced grapes, aging in the wine in the cellar beneath their home in the Santa Cruz Mountains viticultural area. Starting from homemade fruit wine as a hobby in their garage, the couple went on to build their

dream home onto the mountain and the winery into it. They now produce a full range of dry whites including Semillon, and Chardonnay, and reds, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Nebbiolo, and Syrah.

Only 320 cases of this unusual blend of 41% Cabernet Franc, 53% Nebbiolo, and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon were produced. It is unfinned and unfiltered, and is throwing sediment, so decantation is recommended. Bright, lightly saturated garnet and fairly viscous, this wine has several gradations of color as it shrinks in towards the center, with fine sediment. On the nose the wine is advanced with notes of raisin, bark, maple, raspberry, tar, and cedar. It is medium bodied with zesty tannins, and has flavors of bing cherry, root beer, and height-of-season figs.

Reviewed August 29, 2007 by [Catherine Fallis](#).

THE WINE

Winery: Ahlgren Vineyard

Vintage: 1998

Wine: Tre Vini Rossi

Appellation: Santa Cruz Mountains

Grapes: Nebbiolo (53%), Cabernet Franc (41%), Cabernet Sauvignon (6%)

Price: \$15.00

THE REVIEWER**Catherine Fallis**

Founder and President of Planet Grape LLC, a company committed to bringing the joy of wine, food, and good living into the lives of everyday people, Catherine is creator of the "grape goddess guides to good living," a series of books, television presentations, seminars, and e-learning programs. The fifth woman in the world to become a Master Sommelier, grape goddess Catherine Fallis is still very much down-to-earth.