

Southern Living®

**Our Biggest
And Best
Food Issue**
**103 Delicious
Recipes**

BONUS:
Editors'
Picks For
Healthy
Gifts

**Fix & Freeze
Favorites**

**Quick, Warm,
And Cheesy
Appetizers**

**Windowsill
Herbs You
Can Grow**

**Cozy
Bedroom
Makeover**



plus:
**Our Annual
Holiday Dinners**
SPECIAL SECTION

\$4.99US \$6.50CAN



11>

0 92567 10400 0

Points South

OUR LIFE AND TIMES



• SOUTHERNERS •

Life on the Vine

This former NFL great followed his heart's true desire straight to Texas wine country. By Scott Jones

For many, retirement is all about enjoying life in the slow lane. Not for Alphonse Dotson. This Texas native and former defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders works harder than ever growing premium wine grapes.

Alphonse took the first step in realizing this life-long dream back in 1997 by establishing Certenberg Vineyards—named in honor of his grandfather Alphonse Certenberg—in the sandy hills of Voca, Texas (population 50). Eleven years later, he grows one of the most sought-after grapes in the state, according to Fall Creek Vineyards owner Ed Auler.

Alphonse is ready for the next chapter: winemaking. He and his wife, Martha, hope to release their first vintage of Dotson-Cervantes Muscat Canelli in the fall of 2009. (Cervantes is Martha's maiden name.)

A popular white wine throughout Texas, Muscat Canelli is produced in a variety of styles, from light and crisp to sweet and rich. Alphonse says their wine will have lots of floral aromas and be, in his words, a little bit bolder than most. "I want folks to remember this wine," he says with his trademark smile. I predict they will. ●

PHOTOGRAPH: MARY MARGARET CHAMBLISS