

# HauteDRINKS

Bettina Bryant



Bryant Estate

## BRYANT ESTATE

One of Napa's cult producers, Bryant Estate is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its first release, Bryant Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. Bryant is known for its commitment to environmentally friendly practices and meticulous process: all of the grapes are handpicked, blended, and produced on site. Winemaker Kathryn "KK" Carothers walks the vines daily and uses a minimalist approach that allows the grapes to thrive. The bottling, labeling, and packaging are also by hand and the wines, which have a lengthy waiting list, are sold directly to the consumer.

**Experience:** As the northernmost property on Pritchard Hill, Bryant has stunning views of the vineyard-lined valley floor and Lake Hennessey. Private appointments are necessary to taste the current releases, the 2016 Bryant Family Vineyard Cab, 2016 Bettina, and 2016 DB4.

**What to take home:** Although none of the wines are sold at the winery and there is a waitlist to purchase bottles, the Bettina label is worth the wait. A sophisticated and lush blend of four Bordeaux varietals, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot, it's a lovely and highly drinkable red.

**Insider info:** Bryant's owners Don and Bettina Bryant are colossal art collectors and philanthropists who generously donate their wine and time to support local causes. Bettina was the co-chair of Inspire Napa Valley, a recent weekend-long exclusive wine event that benefited the Alzheimer's Association.

**Fun fact:** Bettina is a retired ballerina who danced at American Ballet Theater under Mikhail Baryshnikov

**The 411:** Bryant Estate is in St. Helena at 1567 Sage Canyon Road. A reservation is required to visit the winery.