



## Bryan Cranston

BY BEKAH WRIGHT

**W**alter White, Hal Wilkerson, Tim Whatley, Dr. Fist, Zordon, LBJ ... these are just a few of the roles for which actor Bryan Cranston is best known and beloved. In his recent memoir, *A Life in Parts*, Cranston shared stories of growing up in L.A., among them catching Dodger games when they were played at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The megastar began honing his acting chops at the Granada Theatre in Granada Hills. He has hit his own share of "home runs" over the years, collecting an impressive number of accolades: an Oscar nomination for *Trumbo*, seven Golden Globe nominations plus one win for *Breaking Bad*, and six Emmy wins and eight additional nominations for *Breaking Bad*. The list continues to grow. One might consider such a luminary to be, well, intimidating. Instead, he's every bit the laid-back guy one would expect in someone who was Hollywood-born and Canoga Park-raised. Indeed, Cranston still frequents his favorite San Fernando Valley restaurant and knows some of the staff by name.

### **What are some of your favorite Los Angeles haunts?**

What's great about L.A. is you can be anywhere in a relatively short amount of time: the ocean, mountains, desert, I enjoy them all. I love getting lost on driving trips in areas like Santa Paula, Ojai, Santa Ynez, Solvang, and Los Olivos. Those were great towns to visit, too, when I used to ride a motorcycle.

**Do you remember your first car?** A light-blue 1988 Oldsmobile Delta. It had a huge block engine and probably got 6 miles to the gallon. It was one of those cars that sounded like *bluh, bluh, bluh, bluh* when it idled.

### **What do you drive now?**

I have a copper-colored Audi, which the dealer had a hard time finding for me. It's not a flashy copper, it's actually very subdued, but I saw the color and thought it was unusual and attractive.

**Where on your bucket list do you want to go next?** I'd like to experience Australia and New Zealand and really do it right by visiting for three weeks or a month.

**Do you have a favorite restaurant in L.A.?** Mistral, a little French restaurant in Sherman Oaks on Ventura Boulevard. My wife and I know Henri Abergel, the owner; Raul Arroyo, the maître d'; and Dana Ryan, the bartender. There's something nice about the environment they've created, and being able to taste tried-and-true dishes. Their chicken is savory and fantastic.

**How do you unwind?** My release valve is running. When I sweat, both the toxins and emotions I've been hanging on to leave me. Then, I take a big half-gallon of water into my steam room and sweat even more. You feel like a rag doll when you come out, but it's great.