

## THE BEAUTIFUL LADY

Ilse Graue (nee Koster) was born in 1897 in South Africa to German parents and grew up in Bremen, where she married Johann Graue. The couple came to South Africa in September 1937, two years before the outbreak of World War II, taking transfer of Nederburg before the end of that year.

The homestead had fallen into disrepair and Ilse oversaw extensive its renovations. She made structural changes to accommodate her Beckstein piano, brought from Germany and introduced a second floor.. She retained the historic Batavian tiles laid by Nederburg's founder, Philippus Wolvaart, who built the manor house in 1800. She also moved the beautiful stinkwood and yellowwood wall cupboard from its original niche, placing it at the entrance, so it could be seen by every visitor.

She filled her home with priceless paintings, silverware, porcelain and crystal glass to give it the refinement she was used to in Germany, established an exquisite rose garden, and was a warm and gracious host to Nederburg's many visitors.

A doting mother to the Graue's only child, Arnold, she was also a very loyal wife, who helped Johann label his wines in the early years. She would go with him to try to sell the unknown brand to hotels in Cape Town. Initially, they met with very little success. It was only the Queens Hotel in Sea Point that agreed to buy a case some time during the early 1940s.. Whether to celebrate or out of sheer gratitude, they reserved a table at the hotel for dinner that same night.

When the wine list was presented, Johann Graue demanded a bottle of Nederburg Riesling. The story goes that the waiter had to look for the wine that hadn't even been moved from the hotel's reception, let alone been chilled. He hurriedly brought a bottle back to the table. Making a great show before all the other guests, Johann nodded approvingly when it came, tasted the wine and pronounced it superb.

With the tragic death of their son Arnold in 1953, the legendary Günter Brözel came to Nederburg, also from Germany, to replace him as winemaker. It was he who described Ilse as "a great and beautiful lady".

After the death of Johann in 1959, she moved to their holiday home in Voëlklip, near Hermanus, where she lived for the next 25 years, until her own death in 1984.

The Beautiful Lady Gewürztraminer pays tribute to her, its lovely rose petal fragrance recalling the beautiful rose garden she created for the delight of her family and visitors.