

The first time I heard of a wine making treasure trove

In 1871, Zhang Bishi was invited to visit the French Consulate in Bar, accompanied by the local Dutch Governor General Rajah. After the two arrived at the consulate, the French consul warmly entertained them with French wine. While savoring the chat, the French consul chattered on about their French wine and said, "The wine you drink is priced at up to one pound per bottle in our French capital (Paris, France)." What is the concept of one pound? According to relevant information, in the mid to late Qing Dynasty, 1 pound was equivalent to 7 taels of silver, and 1 tael of silver was about 1000 wen. The average family of three spent only 6 taels of silver per year, indicating the high price of this type of wine, which means that ordinary Chinese people cannot afford it. Let's get back to the main story. After listening to the introduction of the French consul, Zhang Bishi tasted the wine and it was indeed a mellow and fragrant one. Seeing the two guests so fascinated, the French Consul continued to tell them, "Actually, the soil, climate, and temperature in northern China, such as Yantai and Tianjin, are particularly suitable for growing wine grapes." Zhang Bishi curiously asked the other party, "Friend, how did you know?" The French Consul recalled the past and said, "In 1860 (the Second Opium War), which is what you Chinese people call the Xianfeng Ten Years, I served as a soldier with the French army in Yantai and Tianjin. Many local grapes grew in these two places, and the soldiers used small wine making machines to extract juice and brew their own wine, resulting in very unique wine." "It's very delicious. In the end, some soldiers planned to stay in Yantai or Tianjin for a long time and establish companies specializing in grape

cultivation and wine making. Later, as the war gradually subsided, we withdrew and the situation was put on hold." The two of them thought to themselves, but Zhang Bishi thought about when we Chinese people could make wine ourselves, so that the Chinese people could also afford this expensive "foreign wine". Perhaps due to the love and traction of the god of wine, Yantai quietly appeared in the words of the unintentional, and stirred up ripples and imprints in the hearts of those with intentions. It is said that this is the reason why Zhang Bishi founded Changyu Brewing Company in Yantai.