

Sheng Xuanhuai is passionate about Chang Yu

Sheng Xuanhuai (1844.11.4-1916.4.27), a native of Jiangsu Province, was a leader, politician and entrepreneur in the late Westernization Movement in the late Qing Dynasty. In 1886, he served as the Qingbing Beidao Tai and East Customs Supervisor in Denglai, Shandong.

In 1891, Zhang Bishi was invited by Sheng Xuanhuai to Yantai to discuss the development of mining and railway affairs. He took the opportunity to investigate the grape cultivation and soil hydrological conditions in Yantai and learned that the grapes produced near Yantai were of good quality and cheap, with a price of only 3 yuan per 100 kilograms. Therefore, he recognized Yantai as a natural and excellent vineyard for grape growth.

With the strong support of Sheng Xuanhuai, in 1892, Zhang Bishi purchased two barren mountains in the eastern and southwestern parts of Yantai, hired 2000 laborers to open 1200 acres of vineyards, and purchased 250000 grape seedlings from Europe and the United States; Another 61 acres of land were purchased near the city center and a two-story work building was built. Along the river to the west of the building, a road was also built and named "Changyu Road". At this point, China's first grape wine making company with modern industrial colors began to take shape. It can be said that Sheng Xuanhuai played a significant role in the early stages of Changyu's reporting, approval, and factory construction.