

Sister Poems

When Chang Yu first built it, he built a luxurious villa in Dongshan Vineyard. The villa is exquisitely decorated, with antique calligraphy and paintings gifted by the Qing court hanging in the living room. Some rooms are used as residences for winemakers and chefs. The villa is surrounded by lush trees such as grape and apple trees in the middle, with beautiful scenery. It is a place where Zhang Bishi entertained distinguished guests. In the early 20th century, for Chang Yu, it was extremely beautiful and prosperous. At that time, many overseas Chinese returning to Yantai would visit the Changyu Vineyard and stay in the villas here. Yantai Changyu Company became a place of worship for domestic and foreign celebrities and literati.

In 1917, Mr. Kang Youwei, who was in dire straits, unexpectedly met the beautiful Changyu wine here and gave birth to a poem written by Mr. Kang Youwei himself expressing his love for Changyu wine: "Deeply pour into Changyu wine, transplant Fengtai peony flowers; and avoid writing new sentences with crab claws, forgetting the hardships of conquering lotus flowers."

In the poem, there is a sense of breaking through the world, breaking away from disputes, and seeking liberation, with various flavors surging into my heart. Who would have thought that Mr. Kang Youwei's fate with Chang Yu was over. Ten years later (1927), he returned to Yantai and stayed at the Dongshan Vineyard Villa, where he was treated with fine wine by the owner of Changyu. For this reason, Mr. Kang Youwei and ten years ago wrote a poem: "Shallow pouring of Changyu wine, transplanting Fengtai peony flowers; more reading of Fahua and writing new sentences, delighted to meet is home."

Perhaps this is the last wine related poem left by Mr. Kang Youwei to the world before his passing, and he finally gained complete transcendence from the Buddhist Buddhist scriptures and the wine of Changyu. Mr. Kang Youwei's two sister poems still exist in view of Changyu, becoming a brilliant double gem in Changyu's wine culture.

Half a century later, Kang Youwei's disciple Liu Haisu visited Changyu with his wife Xia Yiqiao at the age of 88. He respectfully read the teacher's two posthumous works and didn't say anything. With the help of Xia Yiqiao, he walked towards the writing table and asked for a four foot rice paper. He added a little water to the thick ink and wrote eight large characters with his pen: "Rich and fragrant, shining with the morning light.". Kang Youwei wrote two poems and Liu Haisu sought his teacher in his declining years. Despite the different backgrounds, the scenes were equally touching. This is not only a strange fate brought about by Chang Yu, but also a warm touch of Chinese culture, and a cultural journey in Chang Yu's history.