

The initial appointment of a wine master was full of twists and turns

During the initial establishment of Changyu Company, it has been seeking excellent winemakers. Due to the relatively developed wine industry and advanced grape winemaking technology abroad, the winemakers hired by Changyu are mostly from the West.

Zhang Bishi put in some effort to hire an excellent winemaker for Chang Yu. He had previously inquired in detail with Western winemaking experts in Penang about the hiring of winemakers. Through various matchmaking efforts, Changyu Company finally welcomed its first winemaker after its establishment in the 19th year of the Guangxu reign of the Qing Dynasty (1893). He was an English winemaker named Olin recommended by Western experts. It is said that this winemaker is very skilled in brewing techniques and has a high reputation in the industry. In the summer of 1894, Zhang Bishi sent people to Yantai with his family, including a small wine making machine. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, Zhang Yuzhun, who had not yet taken office, suffered from a sudden dental disease when he arrived in Shanghai. He had to temporarily stay in Shanghai for medical treatment. As a result, the house leak happened to be accompanied by continuous rain and rain. Due to the dentist's mistake, Olin was seriously infected after tooth extraction, and the situation was very bad. He passed away in a few days.

After the first brewer, Olin, passed away due to dental disease, Zhang Bishi began to look for new brewers. Coincidentally, the German family doctor in Singapore is very familiar with Zhang Bishi. He said he knows a Dutch winemaker named Redwood, who claims to have a national assessment certificate as a winemaker. However, because he is not interested in this, he still stays in the Netherlands with the certificate. However, Zhang Bishi is a person who has seen the world and has some doubts about his statements. Zhang Bishi personally went to the General Office of the Dutch Bank to inquire about the situation for the sake of Chang Yu's future, as proof. As a result, the response from the General Office of Dutch Bank lifted Zhang Bishi's suspicion, so he immediately signed a contract with Redwood and asked him to go to Yantai for trial first. In 1895, Redwood mailed his wine samples from Chang Yu to Singapore, and Zhang Bishi promptly invited laboratory technicians from the UK and the Netherlands for analysis. These experts unanimously agree that although the soil quality of the grapes grown is good, the grape quality is not good, and the recipe for making wine is not very reasonable. What's even more interesting is that the news of Redwood being hired as a winemaker somehow reached his uncle's ears. In the winter of the second year, Redwood's uncle personally came to Singapore and revealed his nephew's true identity. It turned out that Redwood was not proficient in brewing techniques at all, but only had some superficial knowledge when running the liquor business with his brother. During the brewing process, he mechanically borrowed methods from the brewing book, and the actual operation was not in line with regulations. The brewing skills were too ordinary and could not even reach the level of elegance. Zhang Bishi realized the seriousness of the situation and immediately conducted a thorough investigation into Lei Dewu's background, family, current job, and character through acquaintances. The results proved that Lei Dewu indeed had the suspicion of being a "Mr. Nanguo" and was not competent for the position

of winemaker, so he was dismissed.