

Babao recommends himself

People often say that eating a pit leads to gaining wisdom. Drawing lessons from the failures of the first two introductions of winemakers, Zhang Bishi believes that it is necessary to raise the standards for selecting winemakers. Firstly, this person needs to have certain brewing experience; Secondly, winemakers must be honest and reliable, preferably with a certain level of reputation. So he began the selection process for the third winemaker of Chang Yu. In 1896, Zhang Bishi entrusted the Consul General of the Austro Hungarian Empire in Singapore to oversee the search. The name of the sommelier applying for this position is Babao. Babao's background is commendable. He was born in the suburbs of Vienna and was a hereditary baron of the Austro Hungarian Empire, from a family of winemakers. His father was a wine making expert who invented a sugar meter for measuring grapes, later known as the "Babao Sugar Meter.". During his youth, Babao learned how to make wine with his father and worked at an Austrian winery. He also held a wine making certificate issued by the Austro Hungarian Empire. At that time, he was appointed as the Vice Consul of Zhifu, China. After arriving at Changyu Company, Ba Bao, together with the general manager Zhang Chengqing, supervised the construction of warehouses, factories, and other facilities, and ultimately lived up to expectations. He presided over the production of 15 mature and distinctive products, including "Gao Yue Brandy", "Ye Guang Cup", "Zuo Tan Jing", and "Qiong Yao Jiang", which quickly became popular. Babao found his true place of use in Changyu, so he simply moved his office address to Changyu and worked as a diplomat while making wine. So, the flag of the Austro Hungarian Empire was hung in the Changyu Courtyard for over a decade. It was not until 1914, due to the outbreak of World War I, that Babao was ordered to return to his home country.

It can be said that the arrival of Ba Bao truly solved the problem of Chang Yu's shortage of winemakers, and he won the trust of Zhang Bishi with his excellent professional skills. He was the first foreign brewer successfully hired in the history of Changyu.