

## Dongxishan Vineyard

In the 17th year of the Guangxu reign of the Qing Dynasty (1891), Zhang Bishi confirmed that Yantai was most suitable for the growth of excellent wine grape varieties during his inspection. The following year, he decided to establish a winery in Yantai. But as a native of Guangdong, Zhang Bishi was immediately hindered by local forces, as the saying goes, "a strong dragon cannot suppress a local snake.". Because the land in good places in Yantai is occupied by landlords and the asking price is very expensive, the problem of purchasing land has become the most difficult to solve. Zhang Bishi knew that without the support and support of government forces, follow-up work would probably not be possible. So, as a high-ranking official of the Nanyang court, he finally obtained local passage through the communication between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and local forces. Afterwards, Zhang Bishi dispatched his advisor Yang Junshi (from Meixian, Guangdong) to Yantai for on-site investigation, and collected soil samples from Dongshan and Xishan and sent them to France and Italy. After verification by experts from both countries, it was found that this is the best soil for planting excellent grapes. Subsequently, Zhang Bishi purchased two barren mountains and a brewing plant in the eastern and southern suburbs of Yantai City, and after obtaining the official deed, it officially opened for business.

The eastern and western mountains of Yantai used to be sloping wastelands, very desolate, scattered into different small flat lands, which were once used for building graves. At the beginning, Changyu Company hired more than 1000 agricultural workers to dig up soil three to four feet deep and build a trapezoidal garden with stones. The roads were also paved with stones, which were lower than the trapezoidal garden for easy drainage after rain. At that time, the hired workers paved roads and built dams, transported gravel, replaced soil and leveled the land, and cut mountains to make fields. The heavy labor was all carried by shoulders. After years of hard work, 1215 acres of vineyards were built in Dongshan and Xishan.

At the beginning of the company's establishment, while developing vineyards, it also built nearly a hundred western-style houses, worker dormitories, kitchens, agricultural tool rooms, makeshift houses, greenhouses, and construction stations in the eastern and western mountain parks. The luxurious villa and garden built at the highest point of Dongshan Vineyard have attracted many high-ranking officials, literati, and poets to come here, drinking and writing poetry. Among them, the leader of the reformist movement, Mr. Kang Youwei, once stayed in a villa in Dongshan Vineyard and left a swan song.

The busiest time in Changyu is the grape harvest season, and the unique grape picking team adds a great landscape to Yantai.

In the early days of Changyu, the vineyard was more than ten miles away from the fermentation plant. In order to prevent fruit compression and maintain its freshness and integrity, grape picking was the most suitable transportation tool. The grape picking team members are all uniform Jiaodong big men, carrying large wooden barrels filled with grapes on their shoulders, weighing a total of 150 to 60 pounds, covered with some green grape leaves to block the light. Although it's a shoulder lift

They bear heavy burdens, but their legs are light and their shoulders are stable, and their provocations tremble, appearing to be out of character.

The lineup of this grape picking team is really amazing, with over twenty people walking up, throwing their hands and feet in a neat and uniform manner. Sometimes, the foreman in charge of the team would solemnly shout "shake it up!"! The Grape Pickers team will switch the shoulder pole from one shoulder to another with a "shush" sound, and after a while, they will switch back from that shoulder to that shoulder according to the command, which is called "shoulder swinging". At this moment, the grape picking team seemed to be a team of wild goose feathers spreading their wings. It was swift and steady, and even the green leaves covering the grapes couldn't shake in time. This was not only to rest, but more importantly, to shake up their spirit and spirit. This kind of scene often makes the onlookers in Yantai feel revered.

On the west side of Changyu is a river that leads to the sea, with a wooden board that is more than ten zhang long and two feet wide, connecting the east and west. People are still a bit trembling when they walk empty handed, let alone carrying a grape pick weighing 150 to 60 pounds across the bridge! The grape picking team needs to walk with the trembling energy of their feet and shoulders, and their feet and shoulders, as well as the boards and shoulders, should be in harmony, otherwise they will fall under the bridge. Once, a challenger stepped on an empty foot and saw that even someone carrying a burden was about to fall into the river. At that moment, the sturdy foreman quickly grabbed his arm with a pair of iron pliers like hands, and then took the opportunity to move his pick onto his other shoulder. Two pairs of pickpockets, weighing twice, crossed the river on the foreman's shoulder. The Grape Pickers didn't lose face!

The seesaw swayed, the river swayed, and the leisurely spirit of the grape picking team is still vividly remembered today.