

First General Manager - Zhang Chengqing

At the beginning of the company's establishment, after careful consideration, Zhang Bishi decided to appoint his nephew Zhang Chengqing as the first general manager. Zhang Chengqing is one of the founders of Chang Yu, who graduated from St. Xavier's College in Penang with a major in Civil Engineering. He came to Changyu in 1892 and held positions such as General Director (i.e. General Manager), Civil Engineer, and Translator. He took the lead in every aspect and worked diligently. The difficulties at the time of establishment did not defeat him. During his tenure, he opened up over 3000 acres of vineyards, introduced 124 grape varieties, and developed more than 10 types of wines.

He worked closely with the wine master Babao, and the construction of the wine cellar was the most difficult and thrilling event during his tenure. In fact, the wine cellar was originally designed and constructed by German engineers, but both constructions were declared unsuccessful. At a critical moment, Zhang Chengqing stepped forward, personally designed and commanded the construction. After three constructions and two collapses, it was finally completed in 1905. In 1896, Zhang Bishi and Zhang Chengqing made oak barrels from white oak boards purchased from the Austro Hungarian Empire and Italy. After the barrels were made, they were pushed into the cellar door along the stone steps and arranged neatly in sequence. After 10 years, in 1908, 501 oak barrels of various sizes were embedded in the cellar, including 3 barrels with a diameter of about 14 to 5 feet and a height of three people. Each barrel can store 15 tons of wine.

In the 1980s, Chang Yu received a Cantonese speaker who spoke Yantai dialect. After investigation, it was found that he was a grandson adopted by Zhang Chengqing from Jingou Village in the eastern suburbs of Yantai, named Zhang Guangxing. According to Mr. Zhang, after the first collapse of the large wine cellar, Zhang Chengqing was already plagued by illness. However, even so, he still had people push carts to the construction site to inspect and supervise the construction. At that time, Zhang Chengqing had just entered his thirties, but his hair had already withered and turned white.

It can be said that the construction of the wine cellar is inseparable from Zhang Chengqing's indomitable spirit and tenacious willpower. Unfortunately, Zhang Chengqing passed away hastily at the age of only 42 without seeing Chang Yu's early glory.