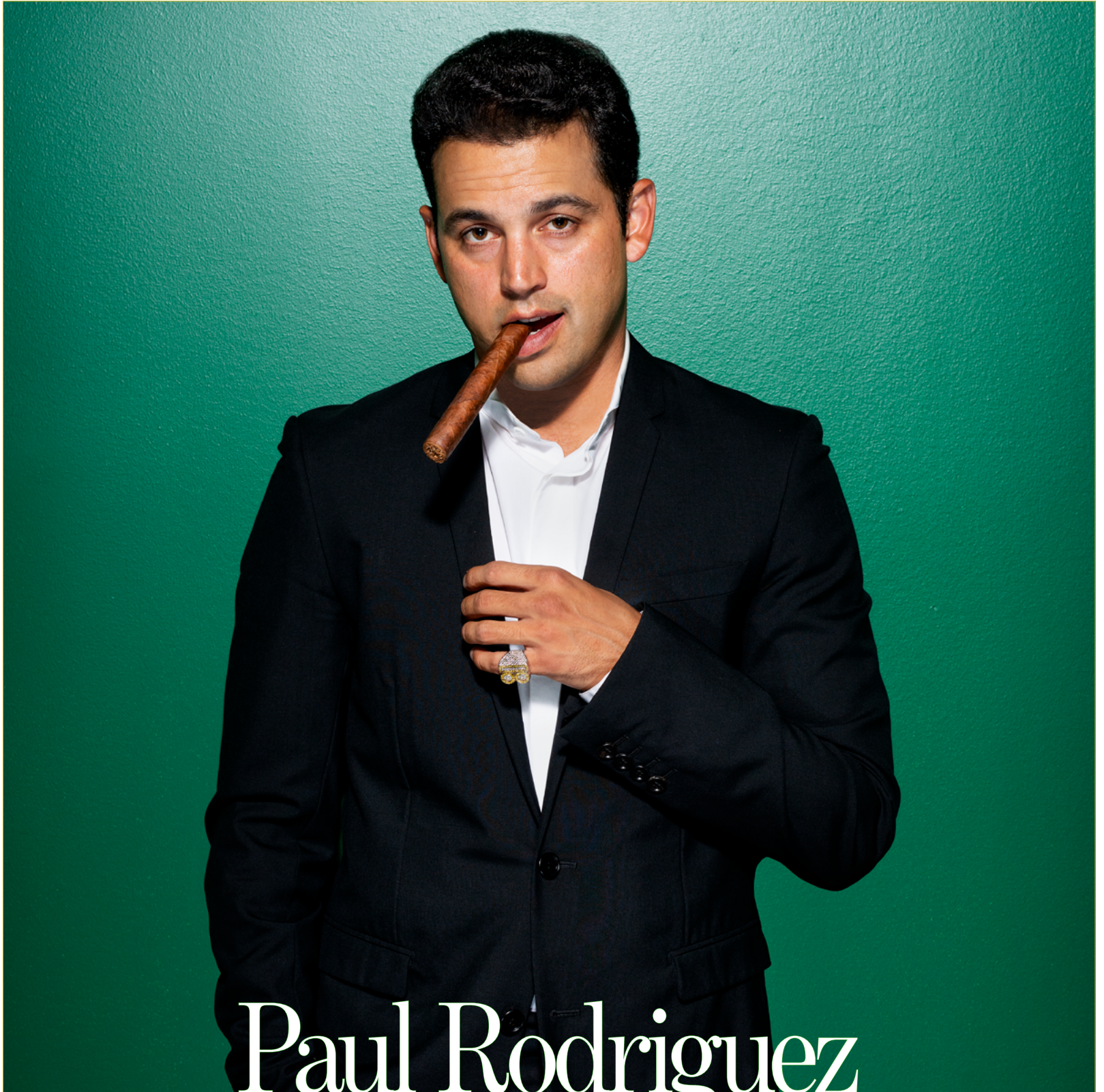


# CigarsLover MAGAZINE

ISSUE 4 - 2022



## Paul Rodriguez

- PLASENCIA'S SECRET - CIGAR POUCHES - PRESSURE AND TRAVEL - PAIRINGS WITH RYE WHISKEY - JOSÉ L. PIEDRA
- TEERENPELI DISTILLERY - THE IRISH NEW WAVE - THE BARTENDER COMPETITION - COCKTAILS: DARK'N'STORMY
- ABYSSAL WINES: UNDERWATER AGING - ICED BEER: THE SERVING TEMPERATURES - CHOCOLATE AND SALT

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# CigarsLover MAGAZINE

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DEPUTY EDITOR Michel Arlia  
SENIOR EDITOR Giuseppe Mitolo  
ART & GRAPHICS Renz A. Mauleon  
PHOTOGRAPHY Mario Amelio  
PHOTO EDITOR Renz A. Mauleon  
DIGITAL DEVELOPER Nicholas Ding

AUTHORS Giuseppe Mitolo  
John Jeremy  
Michel Arlia  
Nicola Ruggiero  
Simone Poggi  
Vincenzo Salvatore

COLLABORATORS Austin Crowe  
Brent Moyer  
Davide Pertino  
Desiree Prieto  
Jake Darwen  
Nicola Cima  
Riccardo Noya  
Scott Sherer  
Vincenzo Lopez  
Vincenzo Scivetti

TRANSLATIONS Austin Crowe  
Yongchao Chen  
Minzhao Xie  
Rachelle Mauleon

CIGARS TASTING PANEL	SPIRITS TASTING PANEL
Aaron Reddy	Ethan Smith
Austin Crowe	John Jeremy
Daniel Hardinger	Kaarel Kluge
Dustin Wall	Luca Cominelli
Giuseppe Mitolo	Michael Lamper
Luca Cominelli	Manuel Ramirez
Michel Arlia	Roger Miller
Nelson Campos	Simone Poggi
Norman Bliss	Vincenzo Salvatore
Richard Frazier	William Brown
Ramon Bernard	Zac Mitchers

MARKETING & ADS:	CIGARISTA GMBH
office@cigarslover.com	Augiessenstrasse 13E, Widnau, Switzerland
+41 (78) 818 60 07	CHE-239.774.579



## Editor's thoughts

### *The New Beginning*

The fourth issue of the year is published shortly after the Intertabac fair in Dortmund, and this year it marks an important comeback for the B2B events after the pandemic. We got the chance to meet once again the people involved in the tobacco industry and to shake hands with the ones not attending the PCA in Las Vegas. It looks like the world has turned the page and everything is almost back to normality. All the festivals will happen at the beginning of the next year, and the cigar smoker can appreciate once again all the aspects of enjoying a cigar together.

Plus, all the habits digitalization brought, are here to help stay related even more!

In this issue, we got the pleasure to spend some time and interviewing Paul Rodriguez, also known by his nickname P-Rod. Paul needs no presentations. He is a professional street skateboarder, actor, rapper, and recording artist. He has won a total of eight medals at the X Games and guess what, he is a cigar lover as well.

Have a good read.

#refineyourtaste



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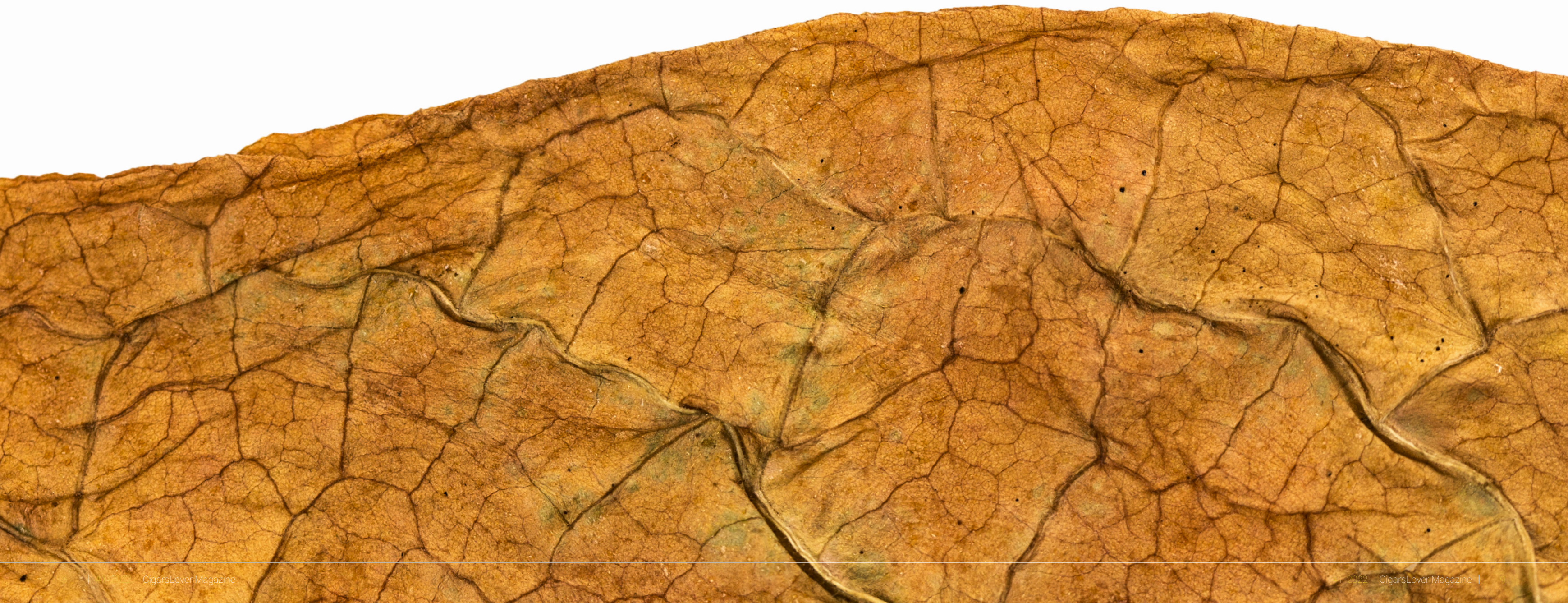
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# CIGARS

"I smoke in moderation. Only one cigar at a time."

*Mark Twain*



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# Plasencia's Secret

*Behind the tobacco growing:  
the best fertilizer.*

by **Luca Cominelli**

To grow the best possible tobacco for cigars, it is important to have healthy soil. For that, tobacco growers have always tried giving back to the earth by planting various vegetables during the seasons when no tobacco is grown. We talked to Nestor Andres Plasencia, who has one of the more interesting approaches to giving as much good back to the soil as possible.

## Why and when did you decide to create your own humus?

I decided to make our own humus or earthworm humus or vermicompost when I learned that it is the best thing that we can add to your soil. We tried different kinds of organic fertilizers like manure, chicken manure, and other types of stuff, but the earthworm humus was the best thing that gave us the best results. And learning about the microbiology of this specific fertilizer. It is unbelievable the amount of life that we

add to the soil. It's like you're taking your probiotics to your gut, and it's the same thing we gave: live microorganisms to the soil. At the same time, we are enhancing the flavor of the leaves and strengthening the plant's immune system. That also helps in the prevention of disease and repelling insects. So, it benefits all around. From nature, for nature.

## Can you guide us through the process of making it?

The process starts when you look for different raw materials for the humus, such as crop residues, corn residues, bean residues, and different manures, like horse manure and cow manure. You have green material, you have brown material, and you have high-nitrogen material. One essential material we're using is the tobacco stems, the central vein of the tobacco leaf, that before we sent it to the landfill and created pollution,



now we're using it to create this amazing organic fertilizer. We compost all those raw materials and mix them. We check the temperature every day like a tobacco pile, and the temperature is important. We flip it so that all the raw materials get a high temperature, and all the microorganisms start decomposing the residues and convert it into excellent compost that we're going to use around one month or a month and a half later to feed the earthworms. Once the compost is done, we take all the compost, add some beans, and put a layer of that compost on top. We add the earthworms, and they start the beautiful process of converting these residues into a beautiful and the best organic fertilizer that exists. So, these beautiful creatures, the earthworms, are called the biggest alchemist that exist because an alchemist is someone who converts inexpensive metals into gold. These magnificent creatures convert all the residues that nobody wants into the best organic fertilizer. It's a process that evolves, and it's a process that you fall in love with. You start feeding with

layers, and when the earthworms start eating the layers, they put their castings on; that is what the vermicompost is.

**How much of your cultivations are treated with it? Only the tobaccos grown for the Plasencia Reserva Original?**

For the time being, 100% of the fertilizer we use in our organically grown tobacco is fertilized with earthworm humus or vermicompost, which gives you fantastic tobacco. That tobacco is used a hundred percent in the Reserva Original, but we also use organically grown tobacco in all the other Plasencia lines. So, some organically grown tobacco is also in those blends. And on the other hand, for all the tobacco that is not a hundred percent organic, we use it as a soil amendment that also increases the elasticity of the leaves and the organic material in the soil, which helps with regular tobacco, especially with shade-grown tobacco. The idea is to scale that into improving or increasing the amount of vermicompost and humus we are using in a hundred percent of our tobacco fields.

**What is the difference between using this fertilizer and the regularly used ones?**

Vermicompost, it's a nutrient-rich, organic fertilizer. Also, it's a soil conditioner, which helps with the structure of the soil, helps with the capacity to retain humidity in the soil, and can help you with the capacity of oxygen in the soil. It will increase the oxygen in the soil as well. It enables the soil in so many ways that the organic material is higher if you can add it in the long term. All the benefits you have are unbelievable because when you grow tobacco, those leaves will be nutrient-dense. After all, the vermicompost helps extract all the macro- and micronutrients already in the soil and translate those nutrients into the leaves, so you get nutrient-dense leaves, which translate into flavorful leaves that we can later use in the creation of excellent cigars. It's amazing.

**You increased the production of humus during the past years. Are you planning to extend its use even more? And are**

**you working on any other innovations in this field?**

Yes, we are increasing the amount of organic fertilizer we produce. The idea is to scale the production and be able to make more in order to feed more fields with it. We are also studying and learning how to improve the quality of the compost we're producing. Right now, we're working with a microscope. With that tool, we can test the number of microorganisms in our fertilizer. And also, for example, the ratio between bacteria and fungi. Depending on that, the number of microorganisms we will add to the soil to enhance the tobacco quality will differ.

So, we have big plans. Another innovation we are working on right now is creating a compost brewer with the idea to create a compost tea that we can inject into the fields with the purpose of improving the quality of our tobacco. There are a lot of big plans in this area for us, and I'm very excited about the future.



CALDWELL  

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cigar co.

# Cigar Pouches

*Extremely elegant and versatile, very useful for the combined transport of cigars and accessories. Here is an analysis of the benefits and critical aspects of the trendiest accessory of the moment.*

by **Giuseppe Mitolo**

It is difficult to deny that each aficionado, to a subjectively variable extent, cultivates a certain passion for vanity and attention to the objects surrounding the smoke.

Let us pause for a moment to think deeper to what has just been said. To cut a cigar a simple sharp guillotine would be enough, but the one with colored or wooden sides or with the decoration of the flag of our favorite cigar country calls to us (unless it has already won over us and we own one...). Even the ignition would work fine with a simple jet flame lighter, yet each smoker has given himself a more expensive model, to respond to the simple desire to own something that gratifies sight and style. This topic could easily be extended to all other accessories, in particular if they belong to the category of furniture of the cigar cave we have designed for our own pleasure. We feel the need to reward ourselves, to pamper ourselves and to enjoy an accessory that is simply beautiful to behold, yet always remains functional.

Halfway between functionality and elegance are the cigar pouches. For some years many companies, even those not historically close to the market of accessories for smokers, have invested in the design and production of these objects, responding to a precise and ever growing market demand.

Describing them briefly for those few readers who still blissfully ignorant of cigar pouches; they are basically a sort of case, usually in leather or processed leather, inside which there are housings for cigar cutters and lighters as well as a pocket for storing cigars. With reference to the latter space, it can sometimes be made of leather or wood, with a variable space depending on the format of the cigars (usually, four or five cigars of toro format can be stored effectively). Sometimes there are models equipped with a humidification element.

It is possible to find them easily in the market and the options are so wide that it can meet every need and





budget: sizes, colors and materials offer a respectable choice, even for the most demanding aficionados. Obviously, the materials used, especially for the outside, significantly change the price: we go from the cheapest, made of raw leather, up to those featuring crocodile leather or similar, passing through the processed leather models.

They turn out to be almost perfect products and yet, to a rigorous and careful smoker, there are critical issues that slightly limit their use.

First of all, the practicality of transport. Not everyone is willing to carry a case that is not designed to be fit into a pocket. On the other hand, some might argue that the dimensions are similar to those of a cigar caddy of five or ten cigars, without considering that you still need to bring a cigar cutter and a lighter. Again with reference to transport, being the housing of cigars closed with a pocket or a wooden lid, the space in length is limited to the most popular sizes.

Therefore they will hardly be able to find a place for large formats (churchill, diadema, grand corona, etc.) or as long as panetela. From this point of view each smoker will consider this product more or less corresponding to their habits and needs. Another aspect which can be evaluated with respect to personal sensitivity is the transport of

"naked" cigars in contact with wood or skin. By "naked" we mean products not stored in cellophane. Cigars that come wrapped in cellophane have a barrier of protection of the cigar and there are no particular problems to report when it comes to placing them in most cases. A different situation is the one related to naked cigars, which will remain in contact with wood or leather that, although treated and processed, can still release minimal odors on the cigars. Additionally, delicate wrappers can be damaged if the interior of the case is rough or the cigar is free to easily move around. Negligible case history for some, but worthy of analysis for someone else.

Another crucial step, however, concerns the storage of cigars in these accessories. It goes without saying that, being a solution for momentary transport, the sticks must already be perfectly preserved. Leaving aside the models that carry a humidification element inside, as most of these pouches do not have it. Both wood and leather (and even more so specifically processed leather) are hygroscopic materials and tend to absorb moisture. The transport in these cases, therefore, in the opinion of the writer, must be limited to the strictly necessary duration of an evening away from home or, at most, for a whole day. Consideration that obviously does not take into account the surrounding climate that almost never corresponds to the storage parameters in a humidor.

# INSPIRADO



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# Paul Rodriguez

*"I want to do this forever."*

by Michel Arlia

Paul "P-Rod" Rodriguez is a successful professional skateboarder and has been for two decades. He has won four gold medals at the X Games and released numerous video clips that have become classics. Paul has been riding for Nike SB, among other big brands, and has had ten signature shoes with the Swoosh, something only elite athletes like the late Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and a select few others have achieved. While he is still going strong on the board, he also co-owns "Primitive", one of the hottest skateboard brands out at the moment. With all that and more going on, we sat down with Paul in his private Lounge and talked about his come-up, business ventures, his passion for cigars, and much more.

**How were you as a child, and how did you start skating?**

I had a lot of energy, lots of energy. I always needed to jump on the couch and flip. I was watching Bruce Lee movies and wanted to be like Bruce Lee and Jean-Claude Van Damme. I wanted to learn martial arts and do action movies. And then I played baseball, and I played basketball, and I played flag football. And then I started playing guitar. I wanted to be in a band. And then I found skateboarding, and my life changed, and I never wanted to do anything else. I started skating at 11 years old and saw these kids every day after school. They were skating in the parking lot after school. I would watch them. They would do tricks, and I just thought it was amazing. I was like, how can you do this? You flip it, and you land on it. You keep riding.





How? And so, after a little bit, I became friends with them and asked if I could try riding their skateboard and test it. I loved the feeling from the first time I tried riding. And so I asked my family for Christmas if they could give me some money to buy a skateboard and that was it. Twenty-five years later, here we are.

**When did you realize that you could have a career in skateboarding and how did your mindset change to achieve that goal?**

Well, I think I always, no matter what I did, no matter what hobby, as I said, when I was doing martial arts, I wanted to do action movies like Bruce Lee and Jean-Claude Van Damme. When I was playing baseball, I wanted to be like my favorite pitcher, Nolan Ryan. So I constantly thought I want to do this for my life. It's my hobby. I want to do this forever, no matter what it is. So when I started skateboarding from the start, "Oh, I want to do this forever." And then later, I learned about pro skaters, skateboard magazines, and skate videos. And I knew as soon as I saw you could be in a magazine or a video, I had to be one of those guys. Almost from the beginning, it was like, oh, this can be a job. Oh, people have a job doing this. Okay, that's going to be my job. So I realized it very early on, and that was my goal.

**How would you describe the job description of being a pro skateboarder, and what does that entail?**

That's an interesting question. It's like being a musician. It's like being an athlete and a musician in one because it's very creative. And there are no rules, and nobody is telling you you have to practice now. It's up to you. If you want to practice a lot and get good, it's up to you. Nobody's going to force you. And nobody can tell you what to skate, when, or how to skate. It's your art. If you think you can do something or picture it in your mind, you can create it if you try hard enough. Like music, if you have an idea for a song or idea for a melody and you have an instrument, and you play that instrument, nobody's going to tell you, "Oh, you can't do this or that." Maybe nobody will like it, but they can't tell you, you can't do it. Same thing with skateboarding. But then also there's the athlete side because it's very physical on your body. And as I got a little older and became a professional, I learned, oh wow, I get sore now, or sometimes my body hurts. I realized, okay, maybe I have to look at other professional athletes. How do they take care of their body? How do they train their body? Oh, they exercise, they stretch, they do all the things. They go to chiropractors and physios and do all these things to ensure their body works in the best way possible. So I guess that's how I would describe it. It's like being a musician with a splash of an athlete.

**Okay. So when did you have the "I have made it" moment as a pro skateboarder?**

When I got my first pro skateboard for Girl Skateboards, I was like, "Wow, this is Girl Skateboards, the most prestigious company in skateboarding, and my name is on this skateboard. Wow." I think that for me was like, "Yeah, I made it." All my friends growing up, everybody would dream of having this happen, and it's real for me. It's real, it's



in my life, so I would say that. And then, of course, I started riding for Nike right after, which made it official.

**You have had big sponsors that are not necessarily in skateboarding, such as Target, AT&T, and others. How did these uncommon partnerships happen? What is your thought process when making these decisions?**

My mindset was always to dream really big. And also, my father was a well-known comedian and actor. And so, when I was a little kid, I had a parent who was living his dreams, and he would take me to movie sets and TV shows. I see him perform in big arenas. And I see him doing really well. So my mindset from being a kid was like, well, that's normal, right? You're supposed to live your dreams. You're supposed to live life as big as you want to live it. So I already knew as a kid, oh, I want to, one day I want to have a big mansion, I want to be rich and live a fancy life. So that was already in my brain from a little kid. And I just happened to fall in love with skateboarding, which came from a culture of you can't sell out. You can't do this. Don't do that. That just wasn't my mindset ever. Don't get me wrong. I don't skateboard for the money. Because before I found out you could even push the limits of skateboarding further to these types of sponsors, I didn't know we could do that. There wasn't much money in it. I didn't know, but I still loved it. What changed it for me was meeting my first ever agent Circe Wallace. And I told her, I was like, "Look, I want to get some real deal sponsors out here." I knew I

had the real sponsors in the core world of skateboarding, but I'm like, "I want to see how big I can take this. And once I started making my name known in the contest circuit, the opportunities would come to us. They would ask her, "Hey, we would like to get involved with him." I was always open-minded. Nike was my first big non-skate company, and they approached me. Next was Mountain Dew, and then after that came Target. I don't just take any sponsoring. There are a lot of things I said no to, but my thought process is, well, if I use it in my life, how is this selling out? I have AT&T. I pay for AT&T service, but now they want to pay me, okay. I already use it. Target, I went my whole life to Target. That's where I shopped at. It was right by my house—the same thing with Nike. When I was a baby, my first shoes were Nike's. So every company I work with, I was already a customer before. So to me, it made sense like, okay, why would I say no to that?

**Speaking of Nike, how did they approach you exactly?**

My roommate, at the time, worked at the skate shop that I was sponsored by. And one day, the sales representative for Nike came into the shop to do his regular rounds, but he knew that Nigel was my close friend. He knew that we lived together, and he asked Nigel, "Hey, Sandy Bodecker, our president of SB, would love to have a conversation with Paul to see if he would be interested in riding for Nike. So I'm at home. It's probably 11:00 or 12:00. He calls me and tells me, "Hey, the guy from Nike is here at the skate shop.

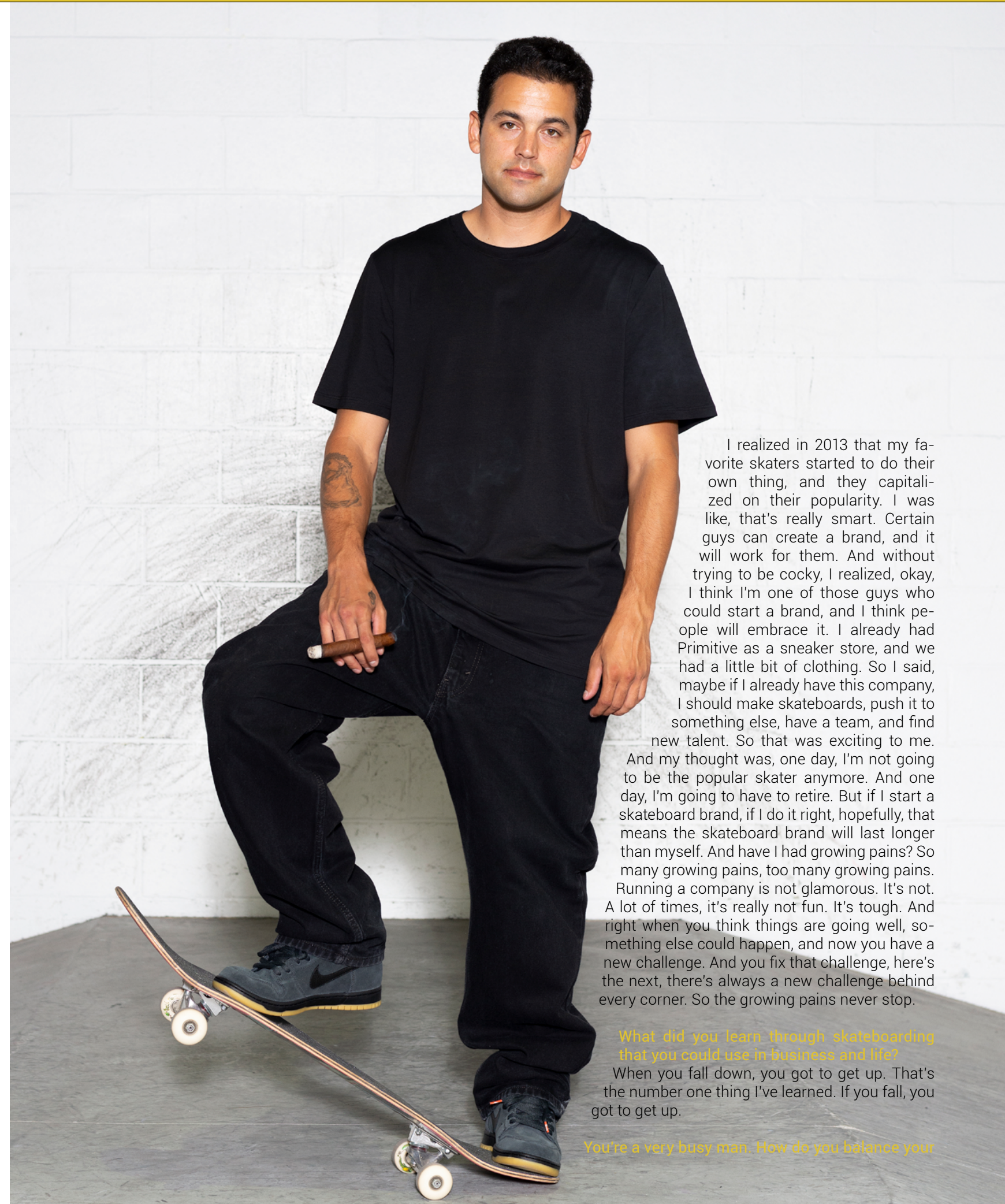
He would love to talk to you about possibly riding for them. Do you want to come down and meet him?" So I drove over there, met with him, talked with him, and he said, "If you're interested, we'd like to bring you up to Portland and show you what we think we can do." And I was like, "Of course, yeah, this sounds awesome." A couple of weeks later, my agent and I flew to Portland, and they walked us through the whole Nike campus. They showed us everything. The rest was history. There's no way I was going to say no to that.

**You came up in an era where you would only see footage of you in magazines or videos. With Social Media, that has changed, and you have to almost create content daily. How have you benefited from social media, and what are some of the negative aspects that come with that?**

It definitely benefits now because now a skateboarder is in more control of their promotion. Thankfully, I was already established when social media came in, and I already had a good following. When I got on social media, my fans followed me and kept with me. So instead of always waiting for the company to promote you, once every cou-

ple of months via ads in magazines, for example, you can promote yourself. You stay very relevant. This is normal for a kid coming up now who never knew the world before social media to them. I do miss the times when video parts or skate videos came out every once in a while. And you had to wait, and you had to see what everybody's been working on. Whereas now it's almost every day, somebody new is dropping something, and it's hard to keep up with. Now the kids these days, this is how it is for them. It's normal for them. So they don't know what it was like before. So who might tell them that this is not good. I like that social media allows you to control your career more, communicate directly with your fans, and stay engaged with your people. That gives you more leverage with the companies nowadays.

**You launched your own skateboard company, Primitive, back in 2014. It has since grown into one of the most popular brands in the industry. Why did you decide to do your own thing? Did you have any growing pains learning the business side of the industry?**



I realized in 2013 that my favorite skaters started to do their own thing, and they capitalized on their popularity. I was like, that's really smart. Certain guys can create a brand, and it will work for them. And without trying to be cocky, I realized, okay, I think I'm one of those guys who could start a brand, and I think people will embrace it. I already had Primitive as a sneaker store, and we had a little bit of clothing. So I said, maybe if I already have this company, I should make skateboards, push it to something else, have a team, and find new talent. So that was exciting to me. And my thought was, one day, I'm not going to be the popular skater anymore. And one day, I'm going to have to retire. But if I start a skateboard brand, if I do it right, hopefully, that means the skateboard brand will last longer than myself. And have I had growing pains? So many growing pains, too many growing pains. Running a company is not glamorous. It's not. A lot of times, it's really not fun. It's tough. And right when you think things are going well, something else could happen, and now you have a new challenge. And you fix that challenge, here's the next, there's always a new challenge behind every corner. So the growing pains never stop.

**What did you learn through skateboarding that you could use in business and life?**

When you fall down, you got to get up. That's the number one thing I've learned. If you fall, you got to get up.

**You're a very busy man. How do you balance your**

**day between work, skating, and personal life?**

I consider skating work, so that's the same thing. I don't work in the office at Primitive. I don't go in there, and I don't make designs. I have great, great partners. Great, great people who work in Primitive every day at the office. Jubal Jones he's my co-CEO. He runs all the designs, the look, and the feel of the brand. Mitch Bhatia he's the other CEO. He runs the brand strategically as far as how we manage the finances and how we deal with the cash flow and the money side of things. Heath Brinkley manages the skateboarding side. He's president of skateboarding. So he manages the team and the talent. Of course, I go into Primitive often. I'm in the meetings. I stay knowing what's going on, but I don't run it day-to-day. So for me, I'm still a full-time professional skater. I focus on skating because it's the best thing that I can contribute to the brand, is still be skating as best I can.

**So you have shown a love for cigars throughout the years now. How did you get into cigars, and what is your favorite cigar-related moment?**

They always were very fascinating to me. I remember I went to the cigar store at 18, bought a couple of cigars, and just wanted to try smoking a cigar. Cigars always seemed like a symbol of success and classiness to me. I just got into it on my own, trying them out. For a while there, I didn't smoke cigars very much. And then, probably about ten years ago, I got hooked, and I was like, I want to get a humidor. I want to get all the cool lighters and all the cool cutters and have cool cigar accessories. Everything about cigars is cool. The artwork, the labels, the flavors, the smell, the boxes, the ashtrays, and the humidors look nice. I was attracted to the whole feel and the lifestyle of it. It feels very celebratory.

**What do you look for in a cigar?**

I'm not great at describing my flavors, but I like mild to medium flavored cigars. But I still am in a phase where I don't know a lot. Sometimes I'll go to certain cigar shops, and there'll be a guy there who's just really knowledgeable and will walk you through, "Oh, this cigar is made in this region. It has this kind of tobacco, and it pairs very nicely with this whiskey." And I'll just sit there, like, "Okay, keep telling me more. Tell me more." I still experiment.

**What are some of your go-to smokes?**

The Montes No. 2 and the Cohiba Robustos are nice. Behikes are really nice when you can get them, and I love a good H. Upmann or Ramon Allones. Lately, I've been enjoying a box of Romeo y Julieta Hidalgos. I have two or three of those left, and I'm saving them for a special occasion.

**Do you see any similarities between the cigar industry and the skateboard industry?**

I don't know much about the insides of the cigars industry, but I would say that I've noticed similarities in the artwork and comradery. Artwork is very important in cigars. And to me, it's very important because sometimes, especially if you don't know so much about them, if there's a cool label on it or it has a nice box, I'm drawn to it, and I'm like, I want



to try this cigar. And just the different shapes and sizes of the cigars as well, it's like the many different shapes and sizes of skateboards. You try a bunch until you find the right one for you. As far as comradery, they are very similar. When you meet another skater, you almost immediately are friends without needing to know them, and I feel it is the same with cigar smokers. Skaters and cigar smokers are passionate about their thing and love sharing their passion without prejudice.

**You have expanded your portfolio by getting involved in different industries. What are some of the industries that you would like to venture into in the future?**

That's a good question. I don't have an answer to what industries I'd like to venture into in the future. I'll be honest, man. I don't think I want to start any more businesses and be part of operating and owning any more companies. I guess I want to be an investor, a passive investor, because of what it takes to run a business. Seeing it on the inside with Primitive, it's really challenging to build something. Running a good business means always making difficult decisions, tough decisions. So I want to find passionate entrepreneurs who that's what they want to do, that they're passionate about it. They want to run and operate a business, and I want to invest with them because I think that's where I'll be better at. That way, I can kick back, and smoke some cigars. I can skate, and I can just live my life the way I want to live it. So I think as far as what industries I would like to invest in, I'm not really sure what else I would like to invest in. Right now, I'm in real estate. Have some investment in some alcohol companies of hard seltzers and some beers. Even in ranching, I have an investment in lemon ranch, lemon farm, and Primitive, of course. But as far as what else. I want to have a stable base of investments of things that you can rely on, such as real estate and whatnot, and things that aren't the glamorous, fancy investments. If I have a secure base of traditionally, more reliable investments, then maybe I'll take a little more risks in investing in a new company or a new brand of some sort, perhaps even some type of tech company I get a chance.

**Have you thought about getting into or making your cigar brand?**

I've considered it, but I'm not sure. I'm not sure if I have a fan base that would be interested in that. As I get a little older, and if the fans who grew up with me are older as well, they're more mature, they have families and get into this type of thing maybe, later on, that might be something that would be interesting to do.

**Lastly, where do you see yourself ten years from now?**

I don't know if I will still be a professional skater, but I hope to be healthy, and my body will be healthy where I can still enjoy skateboarding and have fun. I hope to be doing some more acting. I enjoy acting. I guess in 10 years, I'd love to be a working actor, and that'd be great as far as career-wise goes. Hopefully, I can still live this free lifestyle and maybe travel more. Seeing different parts of the world. I have traveled a lot already for skateboarding, but that's a different type of travel. See the world and see the sights.



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mingles with the warmth of oaky aromas*



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# Josè Lamadrid Piedra

*A brand with a long history,  
recently underwent a graphic restyling.*

by **Giuseppe Mitolo**

Josè L. Piedra is one of the Cuban brands dedicated to the marketing of cigars made by machine and / or with short filler tobacco, distributed all over the world at a low cost.

The offerings of this brand are created by torcedores starting from short filler tobacco grown in the area of Remedios, a territory dedicated to tobacco since the sixteenth century.

The brand was created in 1880 by Josè Lamadrid Piedra, an Asturian who arrived in Cuba in the mid-1800s and settled in the Remedios area. At the turn of the century, his manufacture was the best known outside of Havana. After the death of the founder, the company was taken over by his son and, subsequently, by his grandson, who had continued to keep the prestige of the manufacture to the point that,

between 1940 and 1950, the brand was very well known in the US market.

The brand survived the nationalization of the factories demanded by the Castro Revolution but suffered terrible effects. The brand, was in great demand in the United States but suffered a drastic reduction in sales due to the embargo. This was accompanied, in the following years, by a significant and progressive reduction of the vitolaro up to the early 1990s, when the brand was definitively discontinued.

Only in 1996 the brand flourished again, offering six new cigars, five of which were machine-made. Six years later, however, the manufacture was again entrusted to the torcedores, and until today, it has been preserved, with the use of short filler tobaccos.

In these 26 years of recent history, Habanos SA has disposed of three vitolas in the lineup and introduced two other products (the Petit Cazadores in 2007 - 43x105mm - and the Petit Caballeros in 2019 - 48x120mm) to bring the total number of references for the brand to five. In addition, last July, a restyling operation was announced for the logo and bands. The new graphics will coexist with the old one while supplies last.

The release of a new product, together with the desire to update its image (remained too tied to the past) bodes well for the future of the brand which, despite offering short filler products, has considerable global sales volume. All the products of the brand offer a rather rustic smoke, with varying strength from light to medium depending on the size, perfect for those looking for an undemanding cigar, perhaps to smoke during a walk or while out golfing.



New band, from 2022



Since 2007 to 2022  
(discontinued when stock finishes)



From 2002 to 2007



From 1996 to 2002

# AWARDS 2022

coming in the next issue



# Pressure and Travel

*Have you ever traveled by plane  
and not being able to reopen your travel humidor?*

by **John Jeremy**

Cigar caddies were introduced to the market over a decade ago, allowing the cigars to be transported in a safe environment and under optimal storage conditions, thanks to their airtight seal.

Airtightness, however, can sometimes play a bad joke for those who choose to travel by plane. When you arrive at your destination, it may happen that the caddy does not open, almost as if the lid were welded to the entire body. What seems like a bad dream actually dissolves like a puff of smoke.

Sudden changes in external pressure, such as those of a trip by plane, can crush the sealing gaskets, to the point of no longer allowing an exchange of air such as to be able to open our portable humidors.

Fortunately, although the gaskets may seem solid in their function, they never guarantee perfect airtightness. To unlock our chest, you will not need a crowbar but just leave it at rest for a period of time between a few minutes to a few hours, just enough to allow the air to enter and rebalance the internal pressure with the external one. On larger models, which are more subject to this problem, there is a screw valve that allows you to immediately rebalance the internal pressure.

A small travel tip for the smallest caddies, to be put into practice before leaving: just use a sufficiently wide satin ribbon (those present in some boxes are fine) to be placed across the edges, transversely to the opening direction, and close the humidor.

In case of lack of pressure, simply pull the tape towards the opening direction to apply the right force that will overcome the pressure without damaging your cigar caddy so you can access your prized cigars without delay.



## ALEC BRADLEY



*Global Release  
2022*

DOUBLE  
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EXPERIMENTAL SERIES

# PAIRINGS

From the moment CigarsLover Magazine defined its pay-off, "Refine Your Taste", starting to accompany the tastings of cigars to those of spirits such as Whisky and Rum, we have set ourselves the problem of addressing the issue of cigar-spirits pairing. It is a thorny field, and often the results achieved are not what we expected and the pairing can give as much emotion as dissatisfaction if something goes wrong.

Cigar size: Robusto/Piramide/Toro. These are nowadays the most common formats, offering a representative smoking experience for the various producers and terroirs. Technically speaking, they do not present particular challenges, yet they still offer a satisfying aromatic experience and allow to appreciate the evolution of the smoke in parallel to the tasting of the spirits.

The Rating Scale: 100 points. We have chosen to keep it in the pairings as well, to simplify the comparison of ratings. In this case, however, this scale only evaluates the pairing, and not the individual

qualities of cigars and spirits. If you have both excellent products, for example, but an unbalanced and inconsistent pairing, the rating will be low. On the contrary, the excellent marriage of two products of decent quality could give rise to a very positive evaluation.

The Tasting: Nose, Palate, Finish. Since our goal is to explore the complexity of a pairing, we thought it was appropriate to decline the experience in the three areas, following what is usual with spirits and that is also made in the cigar tasting, with pre-lit scents, tasting aromas and persistence.

The Comparison: 1 Cigar with 2 Distillates. We decided to start from the selection of a cigar, and ask specific questions such as: perhaps with this cigar is preferable a lower alcohol gradation? Maybe the ex-sherry oloroso barrels marry better than those moscatel with this cigar blend? Perhaps the excessive peat hides the more sophisticated notes of cigar? In order to answer the questions, we selected two spirits to investigate which one is the best cigar partner and why.



# Rye Whisky

*Beyond clichés,  
for great pairing.*

by **Simone Poggi**

Experimentation is the exercise to which this column is devoted; taking untrodden roads can be very stimulating, but it may also sometimes lead to dangerous places. The rye whisky is without any doubt a complex distillate to match and you can immediately understand it from the aromatic profile of the basic bottlings: a palette which is rich in different spicy nuances, sometimes green ones, pungent and over the top, a more complex and less intense than bourbon sweetness and aromatic hints ranging from herbs to more balsamic, even of wood resin ones. None of these traits, a priori, appears to be simple to manage in pairing with the cigar. Overly peppery tobaccos are likely to be extremely savory on the palate, while products of a light and more conciliatory character could disappear completely in front of the intense and characteristic profile of this typically American whiskey. As in many fields, theory is very important, but only as a synthesis of a series of experiments. Try then, and then understand in retrospect the reasons for the sensations experienced (and maybe try again).

The path we chose was first of all to try and evaluate different qualities of rye, not stopping at basic products, but testing releases of undoubted value; this allowed us to identify labels that went beyond the common profile, which can be considered even rough at times, refining it and giving the rye less "sharp", softer and mellower tones. All this

while always remaining within a very reasonable budget, far from what Scotch whisky would require for similar high quality small batch products. Examples of this high quality ryes are Pikesville and Rittenhouse, both characterized by a honeyed and gently herbaceous profile, still aromatic but without excesses, perfect for a pairing of satisfaction with cigars of excellent quality and complex aromatic profile, such as an Arturo Fuente Rosado Sungrown Magnum R58, an Axis Mundi by Archetype, a Robust Black Market, a Davidoff Escuro, and a Flor de las Antillas. At the very beginning of the experience the complexity of these excellent tobaccos is the leading profile, with the rye aimed mainly at enveloping the most sophisticated tones with honey and caramel; then the miracle takes over due to different but structured palettes that integrate through diversity, complementing each other, with rich and aromatic woodland tones that are added to the spices of the cigar. A storm of suggestions, always rich and moving.

Other products such as Dad's Hat Straight Rye or Bulleit Rye, the latter obtained from a mash of 95% rye and 5% malted barley, feature very evident herbaceous compo-

nents and a moderate vanilla sweetness. If paired with cigars with a marked herbaceous component, and a touch of young wood, such as a Montecristo belonging to the Open line, they return in similarity a combination focused on interesting varieties of woods, with vanilla that sometimes takes the scene sweetening the cigar, without exaggerating. The resonance of the herbaceous components is remarkable and evokes the typical fragrances of the best Montecristo modules from the past. The pairing is dynamic and lively, with correct ABV supporting without being overwhelming.

In some softer products that have experienced strongly charred barrels aging (such as The Gospel Straight Rye), the vanilla and caramel component (as in bourbon) seduces the cigar well, wrapping it and smoothing the sometimes pungent and toasted character, giving however greater depth compared to basic bourbons and, ultimately, a more complex and rich

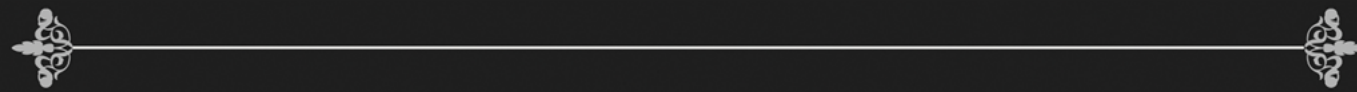
fruition. These products are also successfully enjoyed with by less sweet cigars, such as an Adventura Royal Return Queen's Pearl Corona which, to the detriment of the initial impression of cream and sweet wood, gives peppery and earthy tones during the smoke. Or a Clasico de Joya de Nicaragua, a Double Connecticut by Brickhouse, a Macanudo Inspirado White.

A separate consideration deserves the excellent Whistlepig 10yo, a 100% rye capable of giving structured notes of wood and woody spices, vanilla, leather and balsamic tones, while on the palate caramel, toasted wood and leather dominate. Such a wide variety of aromas supports very well excellent cigars of important structure and body, such as an Arturo Fuente Don Carlos, an Alma del Campo di Plasencia, a Joya Red or a good Aging Room. There are still several different suggestions for the intense and muscular Distillery 291 Single Barrel Colorado Rye Whiskey, to which you can combine really important tobaccos, such as Bolivar, Partagas and even Padron, not without risking saturating the taste buds at times, however reaching a great quality pairing. The path taken in combining such an "over the top" spirit is undoubtedly risky, but the goal can give truly unique sensations in terms of complexity and integration, moving away from the simplicity of certain delicate and barely "whispered" combinations, which could bore even right from the first sip.





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PAIRING

Cigars  
&  
Spirits



ARTURO FUENTE ROSADO MAG. R58

CREAMY AND INTENSE.

STRENGTH	PRICE
●●●	\$ 9   € 11
DIMENTIONS	
58 x 133 mm (6 ¼")	
COUNTRY	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	

Endowed with a masterful balance and great harmony, it releases intense notes of white pepper and precious wood, with a touch of citrus. Then follow the earth and hazelnut. The remarkable complexity and medium strength should go well with the aromas of two quality ryes, both well-balanced.



CALDWELL MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

BALANCED AND ROUND.

STRENGTH	PRICE
●●●	\$ 12   € -
DIMENTIONS	
55 x 127 mm (5")	
COUNTRY	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	

It delivers notes of leather, piquant spices, and earth, as well as hints of undergrowth. In the second half, the flavor profile is enriched with seasoned wood.

We test the pairing with an intense Caribbean rum and an elegant agricultural rum.



PLASEENCIA ALMA FUERTE SIXTO II EXAGON

RICH AND COMPLEX.

STRENGTH	PRICE
●●●●	\$ 21   € 21
DIMENTIONS	
60 x 152 mm (6")	
COUNTRY	
NICARAGUA	

True powerhouse of the Nicaraguan panorama, it is equipped with a dense and creamy profile, with aromas of leather and wood, with also coffee and sophisticated vegetable notes. In a masculine finish there is no lack of black pepper and hazelnut. Given the considerable strength, two bourbons are chosen in pairing, one with a more marine character, the other sweeter, but with a surprising balsamic side.



RITTENHOUSE

Straight Rye Bottled in Bond

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
U.S.A.	50% - 100	\$\$
TYPE	AGE	CASK
Rye	4 Years Old	New

Soft and well-integrated rye. It delivers aromatic herbs well supported by candied orange peel, toffee and sweet spices. On the palate it is richer, with the citrus notes that still stand out on fine wood, cinnamon and nutmeg. The spicy side becomes even more complex, with nutmeg, mace, cardamom and Indian spices, made even more enjoyable by a fresh, almost woody scent. Then everything is enveloped by the sweetness of the rye, surprising and creamy. Magnificent.

On the palate the mellow rye pushes the aromas of the cigar, transforming the precious wood into a symphony, tickling the palate with complex pepper nuances. The finish is of medium duration, with the caramel that leaves room for sweet and tasty spices. Complex, dynamic, very rich.

Pairing score

93

DISTILLERY 291

Single Barrel Colorado Rye Whiskey

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
U.S.A.	50.8% - 101.6	\$\$
TYPE	AGE	CASK
Rye	NAS	New

Dark and deep rye, with black cherries, plums in spirit, black currant and rhubarb. Reminds the balsamic components of some candies with medicinal herbs. On the palate it is warm and spicy, with the fruity side always in evidence and a deep structure that extends into a very long-lasting finish, with balsamic traits. The products are "recurrent": the rye is muscular, with dark fruit compote, fine spices and a freshly roasted brulee' side. Very fascinating, deep and dark.

On the palate the whisky strengthens the cigar, giving it a depth and a very masculine meatiness, unsuspected. Satisfying and long-lasting, where it turns on balsamic candy with black currant. For lovers of strong sensations, with a good balance, perhaps too shifted towards the rye.

Pairing score

90





THE REAL MCCOY  
12 year old

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Barbados	40% - 80	\$\$
TYPE	AGE	CASK
English Rum	12 year old	-

This is a traditional rum from the Foursquare distillery in Barbados. It has been aged in American oak barrels that previously contained bourbon.

Cigar and rum are in perfect olfactory harmony: the Caldwell's earthy and peppery notes are mirrored by the Real McCoy's dusty and leathery aromas. The rum's long aging in ex-bourbon casks adds scents of honey and cinnamon to a background of noble wood spices: the cigar answers with seasoned wood and a hint of undergrowth. The rum's finish develops a fantastic balsamic note that cleans the palate and prepares for the creamy widening of the Caldwell over notes of leather and coffee. It is a textbook pairing.



Pairing score	93
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PÈRE LABAT  
XO

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Guadeloupe	42% - 84	\$\$\$
TYPE	AGE	CASK
Rhum Agricole	6 Years Old	-

Made with old copper Labat pots by Poisson Distillery on the isle of Marie-Galante, this agricultural rum is bottled in 3500 specimens. The olfactory combination is complicated by the rum's intense freshness of aromatic herbs, but with due attention one can perceive softer notes of shortcrust pastry, chocolate chips, and candied fruit that perfectly marry the softer soul of the Caldwell. There is a great agreement to the palate between the rum's patisserie sweetness and the cigar's creaminess. In the end, the agricultural visou nature meets the undergrowth hints of the cigar in a very intriguing way: mineral and brackish echoes take turns with the more classic notes of leather, pepper, and seasoned wood of the cigar, which in turns are a perfect match to the sweeter spices of the rum. It is a more complex pairing.



Pairing score	91
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JEFFERSON'S  
Ocean Aged At the Sea

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
U.S.A.	45% - 90	\$\$
TYPE	AGE	CASK
Bourbon	NAS	New

Aged on ships crossing the Pacific, it offers wood and caramel, enriched with vanilla, orange zest, a mixture of sweet and savory spices and brown sugar. Balanced. On the nose the dense leather finds fulfillment in the creaminess of bourbon, like a soft leather glove. Persuasive, with distant orange peel and a vegetable note of rye. Remarkable.

On the palate the whiskey tries to envelop the strength of tobacco with its caramel tones, but the "salt and pepper" spiciness emerges, reinforcing the earth component. Intense coffee aromas. In the finish comes an almost burnt crème brûlée, with spices and a touch of very bitter coffee. A suggestion of toasted wood also returns. Always complex, but without compromise.

Pairing score	89
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FOUR ROSES  
Single Barrel

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
U.S.A.	50% - 100	\$\$
TYPE	AGE	CASK
Bourbon	NAS	New

Elegant and silky bourbon despite a high ABV, combines a nose with vanilla, pear, light varnish and balsamic notes due to the high percentage of rye with a sweeter and more fruity palate, with quality spices.

The aromas take the form of an intense woodland suggestion, with resin aromatic wood, conifers, mint, distant vanilla. More delicate and less masculine than expected, but evocative. On the palate the effect is different, with the ripe plum of the whiskey that interacts with the cigar, giving a light sweetness of the background that structures the leather and the coffee, giving depth. The spiciness is darker, less savory than the previous pairing. Very different between smell and palate, it is striking for originality and extravagance of integration.

Pairing score	90
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# SPIRITS

“Whiskey is by far the most popular of all remedies  
that won't cure a cold.”

*Jerry Vale*

# The Irish New Wave

*The great comeback of Irish distilleries  
between tradition and innovation.*

by Vincenzo Salvatore



At the beginning of the 20th century, Irish whiskey undisputedly dominated the world market. In the span of twenty years, though, American Prohibition and the Second World War forced such a massive sales contraction that most of Irish distilleries were forced to close.

Over the following decades, despite the overall economic growth, Irish distilleries got pushed out by Scottish competitors and changes in global consumption. In 1972 the two left, Bushmills and Midleton (makers of Jameson), were forced to merge under the umbrella of Irish Distillers to survive. In 1987, though, John Teeling established Cooley Distillery, whose brands Kilbeggan, Tyrconnell, and, above all, the peated Connemara met with a certain success. The following year the international giant Pernod-Ricard bought Irish Distillers and relaunched the brand Jameson to the entire world. For strategic reasons they decided to sell Bushmills to Diageo in 2005.

Thanks to a newfound healthy competition among the three distilleries, Irish whiskey started to recover its lost edge on the global market. In 2011, the Teeling family opted to sell Cooley Distillery to Jim Beam to open a smaller craft distillery in the heart of Dublin: this brave choice started the new wave of Irish distilleries that renovated the interest of the global public towards Irish whiskey. Over the past decade, more than thirty new distilleries have been opened on the island: from the new Teeling Distillery to the reborn Tullamo-

re Dew, rediscovered by the William Grant and Sons group in 2014, from Walsh Whiskey that bottles the now staples Writer's Tears and The Irishman to the ultra-craft Glendalough that collects accolades and prizes, from Dingle to West Cork, from The Whistler to Powerscourt (maker of Fercullen), just to name a few. In less than a decade, such a newfound vivacity tripled the global sales of Irish whiskey from the sixty million bottles sold in 2010, especially in formerly Scottish-controlled markets like the US and Europe. Finally, one cannot ignore how the most representative brands, Jameson and Bushmills, made a whopping comeback in popular culture, as one can find them quoted in Rihanna's and Lady Gaga's songs or featured in tv series like Mad Men and The Ranch.

Yet, this Irish renaissance does not only involve the newfound commercial success of the big brands: the new wave of distilleries is mostly made up of small craft producers that arouse interests outside the mass market distribution.

Following the examples of the Teelings, it was the visionary courage of new entrepreneurs and distillers that allured the curiosity and the passion of connoisseurs young and old. This courage translated into a return to the pioneering spirit of Irish whiskey, yearning to back out of the lingering myth of triple distilling and long aging. On the contrary, the Irish new wave follows the more fashionable trend of NAS, of cask strength, of small batches, of particular cask fini-



shings, of alternative cereals to barley, of a keener attention to primary ingredients, and of the rejecting the mantra of smoothness no matter what. Furthermore, the Irish producers started to study their terroir to better understand the local relationship between cereals, water, distillation, aging weather, and to experiment with wood and toasting types like beer casks (the other Island's big love...), the expensive Japanese oak, and the various combinations among bourbon, sherry, port, and so on. This new vein of experimentation did not mean at all abandoning the classic Irish triple distilled whiskey in single pot still: on the contrary, every new distillery tries to give its own personal touch to the most quintessential Irish recipe, personalizing either the mash composition, or the aging time, or the cask combination of virgin, bourbon, sherry, and even the rare Irish oak (as in the Glendalough Pot Still Irish Whiskey).

Undoubtedly, the new Irish distilleries find more liberty in the bottling of more original and innovative whiskey. Over the past years, the presentation of the yearly small batch by new producers like Teeling, Glendalough, Dingle, or The Whistler has become an unmissable opportunity for the supporters, as showed by the immediate selling out of these bottles. Even the usually more conservative Midleton Distillery launched in 2013 the experimental project of an Irish Whiskey Academy for young talents: from 2017 on, the best results achieved by the students under the guidance of the master distiller Brian Nation have been bottled as a limited edition of the Method and Madness whiskey, bottles that are regularly sellout in little time.

As seen in other countries, the trend of work-in-progress bottlings is often a solution to the problems posed by the amount of time and money demanded by whiskey aging, which are usually prohibitive for small new craft distilleries that need to create a sufficient warehouse. If this practice can be critiqued for the excessive prices, it must be considered that it is based on the crowdfunding model: buying work-in-progress batches permits to support the most courageous and innovative production. Let us consider, for example, the new distillery Killowen, establi-



shed by Brendan Carty in Northern Ireland: Carty set the smallest pot still distillery in the world. Despite its dimensions, the investment is considerable and, even if the public showed already a lot of excitement, Carty will not be able to bottle his product for many years. Thanks to the work-in-progress bottlings, he can offer to the public notable examples of his whiskey style while matching the start-up costs: Killowen recently presented the Experimental Series, small batches of the new production are blended with other whiskey that respect Carty's canons. Unfortunately, some regulation issues cast a shadow over the renaissance of Irish whiskey. Together with many new distilleries, Killowen is battling against the national certification of Pot Still Irish Whiskey because it can be granted only to pot still whiskey whose mash does not exceed the 5% limit of cereals other than barley.

It is an anachronistic and limiting parameter that has nothing to do with Irish tradition nor with modern productive know-how. For instance, this parameter denied the certification to the Kilbeggan Small Batch Rye, a fantastic pot still whiskey whose mash is based after an original 1890 recipe that requires a 30% rye content. Moreover, many new producers are convinced that the bottle label should clearly indicate the exact final composition of the product.

This is a long-time battle between newcomers and category associations in many countries, a battle that usually leads to court halls. Today, this choice appears not only a moral issue of honesty, but as the attempt to stimulate the awareness of final consumers, involving them in the full understanding of all the work required to produce the whiskey and how it then translates into the final tasting. As aficionados and connoisseurs, it seems evident that a productive renaissance should be primarily based on a renewed faith into the consumers' awareness, who support sales and initiatives with their choices.

Hopefully, the initiative of this small producers will manage to convince the regulatory associations to take the path of transparency and productive freedoms following the maximum respect for the primary ingredients and for the public.



*Añejo XO*

When was the last time  
you experienced something  
for the first time?

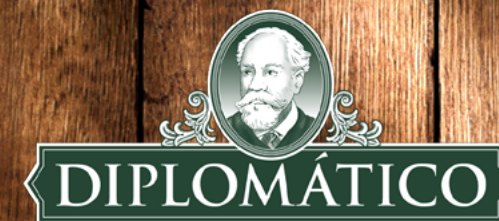


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*#CuriosityDrivesDiscovery*

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# Bartender Competition

*Where the most talented bartenders challenge themselves to create the best cocktail*

by **Nicola Ruggiero**

If you imagine the world of bartending, many will probably think of the image of the barman, dedicated to preparing and serving the cocktail to the customer in the best possible way.

Someone will also try to imagine how much preparation, study, and dedication it takes to achieve at least satisfactory results, if not more. Not everyone knows the world of competitions in this sector and all the aspects related to competing in these national and international challenges.

Personally, competitions have always fascinated me and during my working career I have participated in several national and international competitions; winning many. These are moments of great confrontation between bartenders from all over the world, but above all, they offer

the opportunity to observe different ways of interpreting and living the profession. No less important is the strictly personal side: participating means getting involved and submitting your level of preparation to the scrutiny of judges. Also, and no less critical, sharing new knowledge and drawing it from the work of the other participants.

The bartender competitions are organized for the most part by multinational companies that own or distribute alcohol brands, such as Diageo, which organizes the World Class competition, or Bacardi Martini, which offers the Martini Gran Prix. These events involve the whole world through an initial selection phase on a national level that leads the winners to compete on the international stage. Other times, it is the press that draws up rankings of the best cocktail bars or manages national competitions for



smaller brands. The juries are often made up of three heterogeneous components: a bartender with outstanding experience, a representative of the organizing company or brand sponsor, and an industry journalist or a common customer can be part of it.

What preparation is needed to stand out (and possibly win) in these competitions? Let's start by specifying that, almost always, it is the manufacturing companies (and/or the organizer) who choose the theme. That can often be precise and detailed: for example, dedicating a drink to a work of art, a nation, or at a time of day. Other times free rein is given to the inspiration and imagination of the bartender. Once the theme is known, everything is built, starting from the inspiration and presentation of the developed idea. To be noticed in a competition, it is not enough to make an excellent recipe; you have to take great care in the presentation and minute

details. You need to choose the proper glass and service then work hard on the inspiration and involvement of the jury and the public.

Even more fundamental, almost obvious, is the recipe. Its study is essential: it is necessary to select and calibrate the ingredients in the most harmonious way, dedicating many hours to experimentation leading to perfection. However, even that may not be enough. It is helpful to offer the drink to customers for tasting and outside evaluation to modify or recalibrate the ingredients based on their feedback.

As for aesthetics, the choice of the right glass is of particular importance: it must enhance every aspect of the cocktail, from color to aromas. Then comes the decoration, which should not be underestimated: it must have an impact but at the same time not distract from the cocktail. The field decoration and garnishment is very delicate, which has evolved over time, adapting to the various trends of the moment. It can also strongly identify the bartender based on his interpretation of certain concepts. To illustrate, I have always maintained my identity based on elegance which, in my interpretation, never disregards simplicity and is then enriched with details.

Now the cocktail is prepared, decorated, and ready to drink. But the job is not complete. Another crucial step needs to be taken care of: service, the idea of making the experience unforgettable, of devising a fun and interactive service method for the customer. Here the imagination is the master and is free to express itself at full speed: you could offer the glass on a coaster-gadget that is then given to the customer, or you can leave the latter the opportunity to compose or finish the cocktail as they please. In every competition, it would be appropriate to enclose a multisensory experience in the cocktail, creating a mix of flavors, aromas, and sensory solicitations capable of projecting the customer into the world that has been decided to represent.

If you are successful, what do you win? When returning from a competition, clients and friends almost always asked me, "What did you win?". Based on the competition's prestige, various prizes are awarded, such as travel, visits to manufacturing companies, and rarely cash prizes. However, what attracts the participants most are collaborations: very often, the winner is called to collaborate with the organizing company (or with the brand sponsor) for the following year, with attendance at events and trade fairs. For each winner one important aspect of the win is the additional reference to your curriculum, capable of providing prestige to the professional life of the bartender.

In conclusion, whether you win or only compete you return enriched and strongly motivated to raise the bar of your limits higher and higher, to give your best in the next contest or to amaze the customer with techniques and preparations captured from the other participants.



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# Teerenpeli Distillery

*The whiskey brand  
made in Finland.*

by **Luca Cominelli**

**T**eerenpeli Distillery was established in 2002 in Lahti, Finland, as a part of a larger group running a brewery and restaurants. Producing more than 100.000 liters per year, today Teerenpeli is the biggest distillery in Finland specialized in making premium quality Single Malt Whisky with traditional Scottish pot stills.

They focus on sustainability and ecological practices, and source their barley primarily from Finland as marked by their flagship bottle: the Teerenpeli 10yo Single Malt. Their core range is based on ex-sherry and ex-bourbon casks aging, but they also experimented with a variety of ex-port, ex-madeira and ex-rum casks. Last year, their most acclaimed whiskey was the Kulo 7yo Sherry Cask that won the Gold Outstanding Award in the International Wine & Spirit Competition and ranked 4th in our 2021 Whisky Awards. This year, the new Kaski became a bestseller for Teerepeli, cementing the love affair between their whisky and the sherry casks.

**Teerenpeli has been around for more than 20 years now. What did it mean to make Finnish whisky when you started, and what does it mean today?**

When we started distilling whisky in Finland, there were no whisky manufacturers. We started making a whole new beverage product with our Teerenpeli Single Malt whisky. Today we understand that we were the pioneer throughout the Single Malt whisky industry in the world.



**What were your major goals back then, and what are your major achievements after two decades?**

At first our major goal was simply to produce a good Single Malt whisky. After two decades our major achievement is winning "The Worldwide Whisky Producer 2020" series in the world's largest alcohol competition, the International Wine and Spirit Competition. This year KULO won The Best Nordic Whisky -medal in Sweden. The long-term achievement is that we have been able to increase the production and finance our whisky stocks throughout the years.

**What are the peculiarities of whisky making in Finland? How do the terrain, the barley, the water, and the climate impact the final product?**

Teerenpeli Single Malt whiskies are produced by using domestic raw materials. Also we have a great availability of the pure water. The water we use is world's purest Salpausselkä groundwater filtered through gravel that was layered together during the ice age. We also use Finnish malt from local malting factory. One more peculiarity is our unique maturation system where we use ex sea containers

**How did you arrange your core range across these years? What are your most representative products and your bestsellers?**

What comes to arrange our core range, we think of our customers first. We explore what kind of taste they have and what are their interests. The sherry casks and the smoky flavors have been a leading role in our product develop-



ment. Our representative product is KULO and the best-seller is KASKI. Thanks to all the medals and the attention that they have received over the last years.

**We were impressed by Teerenpeli Kulo last year, so much that it ranked fourth in our 2021 Awards. Can you tell us a bit about its history and creative process?**

We wanted to offer a new sherry cask whisky to our customers. Our distillery staff sourced out our cask warehouses and were able to pinpoint good enough casks to make KULO. KULO is distilled from Teerenpeli lightly peated new make and matured 7 years in selected sherry casks.

**Sustainability has been one of your main beliefs from the onset. What does it take to make whisky sustainably? Does it pay off beside the ethical satisfaction? Shouldn't at least certain sustainable practices become mandatory premises for any whisky maker?**

Teerenpeli Distillery has been planning it's actions with sustain thinking for years already. Using our own wood pellet plant for the process heat has already made a great impact for climate change. Our cask warehouse for maturation is made of recycled sea containers. As well using the local raw materials have been our choice since we started distilling 2002. Quite many distillers in Nordic countries are working already sustainable way. To produce whisky sustainably requires the new way of thinking in many fields.

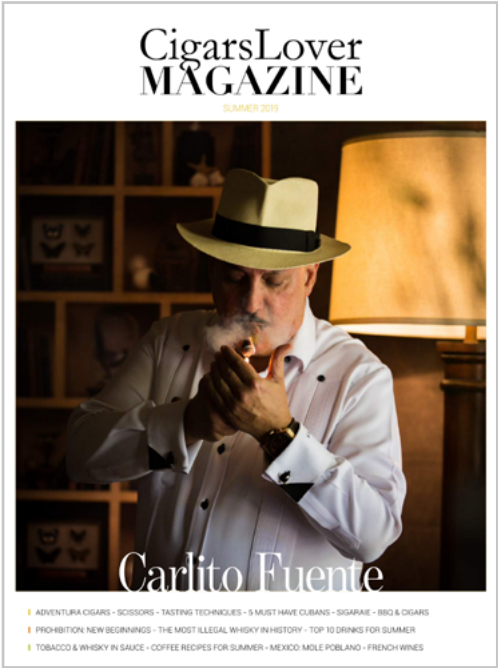
**Which are your most important markets? Which are the most difficult markets to win over? Where are you investing the most in terms of marketing?**

Our most important markets are domestic and Scandinavian. We started to export whiskies to Japan in 2021, and it is interesting because of the cultural differences and their unique language. The Asian market is interesting, and we have found good partners in Japan. Our KULO 50,7% was just awarded a gold medal in Tokyo Whisky and Spirit Competition 2022 as the best European Single Malt and KASKI won silver there as well. In terms of marketing, we are investing in our own restaurants, which serve our brewery and distillery products around Finland in seven different cities. In Finland it is prohibited by law to market spirits, including single malt whiskies outside of restaurants, but we have found our ways to promote them according to local legislation.

**What lies in the future of Teerenpeli? Limited editions, new core range bottlings, experimentations?**

This fall we will launch a new core bottle PALO. PALO is an ancient Finnish word for land that has been burned in slash-and-burn agriculture. It also means burning, which combines the gentle smokiness, ex sherry casks and our passion of making this high-quality Finnish Single Malt Whisky. We also have a new trilogy coming in 2023.





# CIGARSLOVERS MAGAZINE

## DISCOVER ALL ISSUES



INTERACTIVE



# Dark'n' Stormy

*The encounter between dark rum and ginger soft drinks, in a great, mixology classic, unknown to most. But watch out for apostrophes.*

by **Davide Pertino**

The aesthetics side of a drink has always played a key role in its appeal to consumers, ever since man invented... the cocktail. In recent years, thanks to a larger variety of points of contact with contemporary food and wine science, the search for ingredients and preparations that could amaze the customer has reached higher and higher levels. To become even more aware of what has just been written, it would be enough to search for #cocktail on Instagram to find eye-catching preparations, whether reinterpretations of great classics or creative drinks invented from scratch.

Among the great classics there is a cocktail that, in its simplicity, immediately demands attention, since it offers the user a clear visual separation of the liquid components, which results in a final aspect such as if they were supe-

rimposed in the same glass. We are talking about the Dark'n'Stormy, quite a particular name, offering reasons itself for the most curious to discover the history behind it. First of all, the Dark'n Stormy (with only one apostrophe before the n) is the only drink to be owned by a brand, Goslin Brother LTD, which has officially registered the drink just as if it were a real brand. This choice originates from a more than valid reason: for the preparation of this drink it is necessary to use a dark rum which, coincidentally, is also produced by Goslin. Formally registering the name meant, in fact, preventing the sale of Dark'n Stormy that was not prepared with Goslin dark rum.

To research the historical origins of the cocktail it is first necessary to go deeper into the history of the distillery. Around 1860 the Goslin Brother distillery in Hamilton, the capital

of Bermuda, marketed a rum that was born from a blend of dark rums, different from each other, vatted in barrels. This blend immediately pleased the officers of the nearby Royal Navy base who, given the high consumption of the product, thought of storing it in bottles of champagne recovered from the canteen, closed with black sealing wax. The rum was nicknamed "black seal" because of the color of the wax used to make the seal. The Gosling brothers' company immediately took to the name, to the point of marketing it just as Gosling's Black Seal Rum. A few years later, precisely in 1874, an English shopkeeper on the island, owner of a general store where he sold spices and foods of all kinds, decided to bottle, in his back room, a drink that contained a ginger root. It is said that this is how the first ginger beer on the island was born, which is still produced today in Bermuda and which still retains the name of its founder "William John Barrit" and his Barritt's Ginger beer.

Related to the birth of the drink there is scant concrete information, such as its historical dating, approximately after the Second World War, and its composition, made by the union of a dark rum and a ginger root drink with a spicy flavor. Adding to this uncertain frame of information there is always the legend. This time the "paternity" of the cocktail would be given to a thirsty sailor who, intrigued by the slightly spicy drink of William John Barrit and a great consumer of Goslin Rum, decided to pour a portion of dark rum on his ginger beer. It is handed down that, at the first taste, his comment was: "It looks like the color of a cloud only a fool or a dead man would sail under, it's dark and stormy!". From this exclamation, Gosling Brothers, a few years later, decided to register the name of the drink "Dark'n Stormy", dark and stormy, in order to maintain the originality of the cocktail and the recipe linked to the use of Gosling dark rum. For many years Dark'n Stormy has been a cocktail that did not always find a place in the drink lists of most bars, due to the difficulty of finding ginger beer on the market. Fortunately, thanks to the fame that another drink has reached, the Moscow Mule, ginger beer has become an easy to find soft drink in bars and in markets around the world. As a result, the Dark'n Stormy has no longer been confined to recipe books.

The dispute over the name is very curious and at the same time fascinating. In the USA, around 1990, the owners of Gosling, decided to differentiate the name of the drink by reporting only one apostrophe to the n, Dark'n Stormy. While the IBA (International Bartenders Association) version, notes, on its official recipe books, the name with two apostrophes, Dark'n'Stormy. No confusion though. When in a drink list we find the name noted with two apostrophes, any dark rum will be used for the preparation. Otherwise, with just one apostrophe, we will know for sure that the cocktail will be prepared according to the original recipe with Goslin dark rum.

It is a fresh, intense, and powerful drink, thanks to the spicy touch given by ginger, with all the aromatic complexity given by rum. The acidity of lime then balances everything. A cocktail not well known in our time (and also unfairly), but that can be considered as a great classic.

## INGREDIENTS

- 6 cl Gosling Dark Rum (or another dark rum)
- 1 cl lime
- 10 cl ginger beer

## GLASS

Collins or high tumbler.

## PREPARATION

Pour, in the following order, the lime, ginger beer and ice. Then the dark rum.

## ADVICE

After pouring lime, ginger beer and ice, care must be taken not to completely fill the glass, since space for the dark rum must be left, which must be poured last and slowly, in order to create the characteristic appearance of two liquids of different colors separated from each other and in suspension.

# TASTE

"Wine is the most healthful and most hygienic of beverages."

*Louis Pasteur*



# Iced Beer

*Pay attention to the correct serving temperature for each style of brewing.*

by **John Jeremy**

The image of a glass of cold beer, from which a drop of condensation water slips, is perhaps the most persuasive and enjoyable advertising appeal that the history of marketing has ever created. We could discuss for hours about which beer is the best, even differentiating it by type and production style, but we would all agree on one thing: that it is cold! After all, who would drink a beer at room temperature?

Going beyond the images conveyed by social networks, TV, and magazines, have you ever wondered, before enjoying or serving a beer, “how cold?”. Someone could answer that the lower the temperature, the more pleasant the beer is to swallow, especially on hot days. This is a statement that would be fine if we drank beer to quench our thirst but if we want to appreciate it at its best in its aromatic profile, the question would not be so trivial.

The oral cavity and especially the taste buds respond very quickly to the thermal stimuli of the substances with which they come into contact, be it food, drink or smoke. The cold, however, is a great inhibitor of the correct aromatic perception as it can slow down or even distort the reception of information by the tongue, the palate and the oral cavity in general. An example within everyone's reach: the colder the beer, tending to ice, the less aromatic charge it develops, with the effect that different beers will seem all the same.

Generally speaking, there are two golden rules of reference on the temperature of use. The first concerns the alcohol content: the higher the alcohol content, the higher the serving temperature. The second concerns the macro-classification between light and dark beers, with the former expressing their aromatic bouquet better at lower temperatures than the latter. There would also be an indicator that would allow us to understand if the beer we were served is at the correct temperature and that is the foam: if it is low, not very compact or tends to vanish immediately, the beer is too cold. However this is not a completely exhaustive indicator, since there are types of beer that do not develop much foam due to the low presence of carbon dioxide.



For some years now it has been understood that attention to the serving temperature, as it happens in the world of wine, can only create benefits to a better enjoyment of the beverage. However, it is necessary to bear in mind that each style of brewing has optimal serving temperature ranges, sometimes also indicated on the label by the producers.

For greater clarity of presentation, below are five macro subdivisions of the most common brewing styles, within which, for some types, an even more precise reference temperature is indicated.

**0°C – 4°C**  
Golden Ale

- 4°C – 10°C**  
Lager with low alcohol content (4-6 ° C)  
Pilsner (4 ° -7 ° C)  
Kölsch (4 ° -7 ° C)  
Belgian White (4 ° -7 ° C)  
Duvel (4 ° -7 ° C)  
German Weizen (6-8 ° C)  
Bière Blanche (6-8 ° C)  
IPA beers (6-8 ° C)  
Berliner Weisse (7-9 ° C)  
Gose (7-9 ° C)  
Lambic (7-10 ° C)  
Bock (8-10 ° C)

- 10°C – 12°C**  
American Pale Ale  
British ales  
Altbier  
Doppel (12 ° C)  
Porter  
Stout  
Flemish Red Ale  
Oud Bruin

- 12°C – 14°C**  
Imperial  
Abbey beers  
Trappist  
India Pale Ale  
English Strong Ale  
Belgian Strong Ale  
American Strong Ale  
Strong Ale

- 14°C – 16°C**  
Imperial Stout  
Doppelbock  
Eisbock

- 70°C**  
Daleside Morocco Ale  
Liefmans Glühkriek

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# Chocolate and Salt

*The use of chocolate in the preparation of savory dishes is getting trendy despite the self-imposed resistance of our brain.*

by **Vincenzo Lopez**

The link that immediately arouses the association between two culinary pillars of daily use might seem evocative and subliminal: chocolate and salt.

The beloved bean that pleases our palates, so easily molded by the creative minds of pastry chefs, is a multi-faceted and versatile food. Known since ancient times, not surprisingly called the food of the gods, theobroma cacao (cacao tree) cheers up our everyday life in different forms. But what if we considered it a combination? What if we tried to make a vegetable tangy and tasty at the same time? The use of chocolate in modern cooking has found a wide range of applications, opening the doors to new sensory perceptions close to the perceptual complex of the umami.

On the other hand, our daily habits greatly hinder the possibility of experimentation, but the cocoa bean, as rubinacea, can create chaos. That chaos that we find in a bar full of people intent on listening loud music, on having drinks, to satisfy social needs. In the same way, sitting in

a comfortable chair of a beach club in the company of a cigar, we will make it difficult for our neighbor to stay. We choose chaos, we crave it, we make it ours out of inherent condescension.

Well, chocolate, exacerbated in its deepest peculiarities, creates this effect, a controlled explosion of infinite shades. The gaze of the first customer who tried one of the dishes I love most, hedgehog and gold, is clear in my memory. Spaghetti sauteed with balanced butter of chocolate and anchovies, finished with gold leaves and cold sea urchin sauce in suspension. The effect that chocolate produces on the olfactory level deceives our experiential background, telling us that that food, by synaesthesia, will be sweet. The palate, however, will communicate anything else, it will tell you that that chocolate, linked to the mineral salinity of anchovies, is amazingly pleasant, and while the taste buds juggle sweet acidity and sapidity, the flavor of the hedgehog arrives with strong arrogance, which like a tsunami of flavors invades the senses, intoxicating our taste memory with new information.

## Chaos.

But the experience of chocolate in "savory" cuisine does not end here. The application of roasted meats is wonderful: the essential oils of chocolate caramelize, creating new crunchiness and tenderness. In fact, in US trends, the combination of the cocoa bean with the "portfolio" of spices to marinate the famous brisket, and then smoke it slowly until it reaches that succulent classic American bbq consistency, gives that round-exotic and not that acidic "twist". Not only that, you could go into total gambling even with white meats. A fully processed rabbit (i.e. boning it entirely, creating a veil of meat) could then be lacquered for cooking, at low temperature, with an emulsion of oil, honey, cocoa and salt. It is useless to turn up your nose ... it must be tried! The crystallization of cocoa and honey, then balanced for flavor by the salt, will create that glossy, succulent patina similar to a Pekingese duck.

But not only the carnivore is called into question for these new frontiers. The solanaceae, in fact, are fertile ground

for the implementation of the new scale made of chocolate and salt. In particular, the horn pepper, baked in the oven with a light sprinkling of cocoa and the right amount of salt, will constitute a meal in itself, for goodness but also for the nutritional contribution. Just analyze the classic label to find that 100g of chocolate contains 4.6g of protein, 30g of fat, and 60g of carbohydrates. This is striking data, which is why chocolate is widely used in strict sports nutrition. Not least are the beneficial results of the latest scientific studies that show how moderate consumption of chocolate, in a balanced diet, benefits the cardiovascular system, boon to our mood. Its aphrodisiac power stimulates and its antioxidant properties reduce the effects of oxidative stress.

The bases for combining useful and delightful have been revealed, in a perfect balance between heart and throat, which leaves the fervor of our culinary image awake. The balance is revealed between opposing foods, such as cocoa and salt, becoming a fusion between black and white that returns a very broad spectrum of gray to be explored.



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## 威士忌標籤

怎麼找出來  
你喝的是什麼

Federico Bosco

所有威士忌飲用者經常進行類型分析，偶爾或熱情，瓶子一直是購買的主要吸引力，但是有一個更精細的細節，必須加深，能夠揭示許多有用的新聞：標籤。

無論是大的還是小的，有時用玻璃瓶裝，有時是雙面（正面和背面），有時是圓的，有時是方形的，標籤傳達給我們所有的信息，以了解更多的東西，而不僅僅是內容。它並不總是正確的，但一般的一些事情總是有效的。

雙面標籤通常其名字為威士忌，這同樣適用於美國世界。相反，在蘇格蘭和世界其他地方，我們說沒有“e”的威士忌：在蘇格蘭的情況下，名稱擴大了蘇格蘭威士忌，單一面蘇格蘭威士忌保證了單一產區的純正性。一些蘇格蘭威士忌增加了生產區域，以強調產品的地域性。

“歲月”之後經常出現由數字與產品的最低年齡有關。最低年齡因為，與標籤不同桶的混合相比，最低年齡的數字是相同的。示例：使用三個桶分別釀造8年、12年和20年的威士忌將顯示“8

歲”字樣，無論舊桶的氧化情況如何。公認有責任報告其他桶的年齡，但這不是強制性的。有時，您可以找到沒有年齡的威士忌：沒有恐懼，沒有夢想或假冒產品，它們是所謂的NAS（無年齡聲明），其中適用於最低2年威士忌的標籤上。製片人選擇不標年齡，這仍然是未知的：它將由我們的口味來驗證味道和愉快。

在標籤上，始終報告酒精含量，必須至少為40%；在這個數字下我們不能說威士忌，如果等級更高，有時公司會報告“Cask Strength”（英國世界）或“Full Proof”（美國世界）；我們在沒有用水稀釋的產品存在。因此，好像它們只是從桶中取出。然而，無夢者也可以使用用水稀釋的威士忌的較低等級的木桶強度威士忌。



忌，特別是如果前者有一定的年齡。 “Un Chilled”這個詞讓我們知道威士忌沒有被冷過，以及“沒有顏色”，或“沒有添加劑”（或其他類似的詞），解釋說沒有添加劑修正顏色。

在特殊情況下，我們還可以找到所用桶的指示，甚至是桶桶的數量。這通常及經常發生在非常有趣的酒中，這是在獨立裝瓶商的情況下使其成為驕傲的來源。此外，我們可以找到Single Cask或Single Barrel這兩種詞，它們強調了它的獨特性。另一個詞是Small Batch，它仍然是一個更廣泛的概念：您可以從兩個桶中取出，但仍比前邊小一些（舉一個例子：獨立和Cadenhead的裝瓶者為自己的小批量結合了兩個或三個桶，而奧

本小還沒有宣布使用的桶數量，但他們肯定會把更多的桶放在一起。

在特殊情況下，它總是發現精神和龍族的日期，特別是當涉及單個桶時：生產者想要強調精神在桶中花費的時間。

桶的組合符合精確的標準：您可以將來自同一釀造廠，不同釀造廠，甚至麥芽（大麥）和小麥（穀物）桶的麥芽威士忌混合在一起。在第一種情況下，沒有標籤（這是一種常見做法）。在第二種情況下，我們將有混合麥芽威士忌（多年混合或稱為Vatted），第三種情況是混合威士忌（或混合），還有Grain Whiskies：這個術語是指所有種類的威士忌。在美國世界，我們經常遇到與威士忌相關的各種詞語，或者使用的唯一一類：黑麥威士忌，玉米威士忌。

我們試圖解釋各種標籤上最常見的術語：沒有絕對的紀律，每個製造商都有自己的事情。但是，遵循這些指導原則，在這個廣闊而獨特的世界中，您將更容易自說。

# Abyssal Wines

*Experimenting with underwater aging  
for new taste and exclusivity*

by **Vincenzo Salvatore**

The interest for the effect of underwater wine aging arose when several years ago a precious cargo of champagne was found aboard century-old shipwreck at the bottom of the sea.

Auctions were extremely successful, and the following exclusive tastings persuaded most that the perfect underwater conditions of darkness, cool temperature, and absence of oxygen had given a distinctive character to those bottles. Over the past years many producers have been experimenting with sea aging to understand if the concept of aquaioir (water terroir) or merroir (sea terroir) could have represented a brilliant innovation. Yet, setting aside ephemeral marketing ideas, some of these wineries have indeed launched important investment to better understand sea aging. If it is true that underwater conditions are an ideal setting for wine aging, the difficulties and the risks are noteworthy and require a complex managing system, without even mentioning the bureaucratic jungle of legal permissions.

Among the various attempts, we can name the French Maison Drappier that made Immersion, a special champagne release aged in the gulf of Saint-Malo; a champagne by Hostomme and a Brazilian classical method by Miolo resting in the waters of the Breton island of Ouessant; the project Sketch Albariño by the Spanish producer Raul Perez; the sparkling Vermentino Akènta Sub by winery Santa Maria La Palma aged in the sea reserve of Capo Caccia in Sardinia; finally, the sparkling Sangiovese di Romagna Villa Zappi Ondina 33 by Tenuta Casale left for a year in a shipwreck out of Rimini's coast. Besides sparkling wines, the Greek winery Gaia developed on Santorini the Thalassitis, an interesting white wine from autochthonous grape Assyrtiko aged in underwater clay amphoras.

However, the first and foremost winemaker that made a true historical success of his visionary investment was



the Italian Piero Lugano of the Ligurian winery Bisson. It took to Lugano more than ten years of research and preparation before the first release. The first 6500 bottles of Abissi (Abysses) – made from autochthonous grapes like Bianchetta, Vermentino, and Cimità – stayed for a year in a special cage suspended sixty meters in the depth of the Silence Bay in Sestri Levante, where the constant temperature of 15 °C, the absence of light and oxygen, and the slow wave movement gently cradled the bottles and covered them with a fascinating stratum of seashells. The marketing promotion in 2010 was a sensational event: journalists, rivals, and enthusiasts from all over the world were charmed by the mysterious encrusted bottles. The first release Bisson's Abissi made the history of winemaking. Since then, Bisson's range offers three releases for a limited production of only 30,000 bottles: the 18-month Abissi, the 36-month Riserva Marina, and the 24-month Rosè (from Ciliegiole and Granaccia), all strictly zero dosage to maintain unadulterated the natural characteristics of the grapes developed during the underwater aging.

Undeniably, the Abissi wines have a unique tasting profile, even if discussing of aquaioir may still sound a bit risible. The nose does not seem to offer substantial variations, but the palate shows all the signs of the underwater aging in absence of oxygen: there is a perfect balance of pressure, great mellowness and silkiness despite the zero dosage, and above all a peculiar match of youth freshness with aged creaminess in what seems an ageless sparkling wine. Bisson's wines are constantly growing in terms of quality and prestige, and from 2019 the new winery reached the technical state-of-the-art, but Abissi is, above all, an example of visionary courage from a winemaker who loves his territory. The choice of using only autochthonous grapes according to the vintage makes of these bottles a true exclusive treasure of the rarefied and heroic world of Ligurian winemaking, struggling to resist amidst climatic and environmental difficulties.

# Blind Tasting



**84** SPIRITS

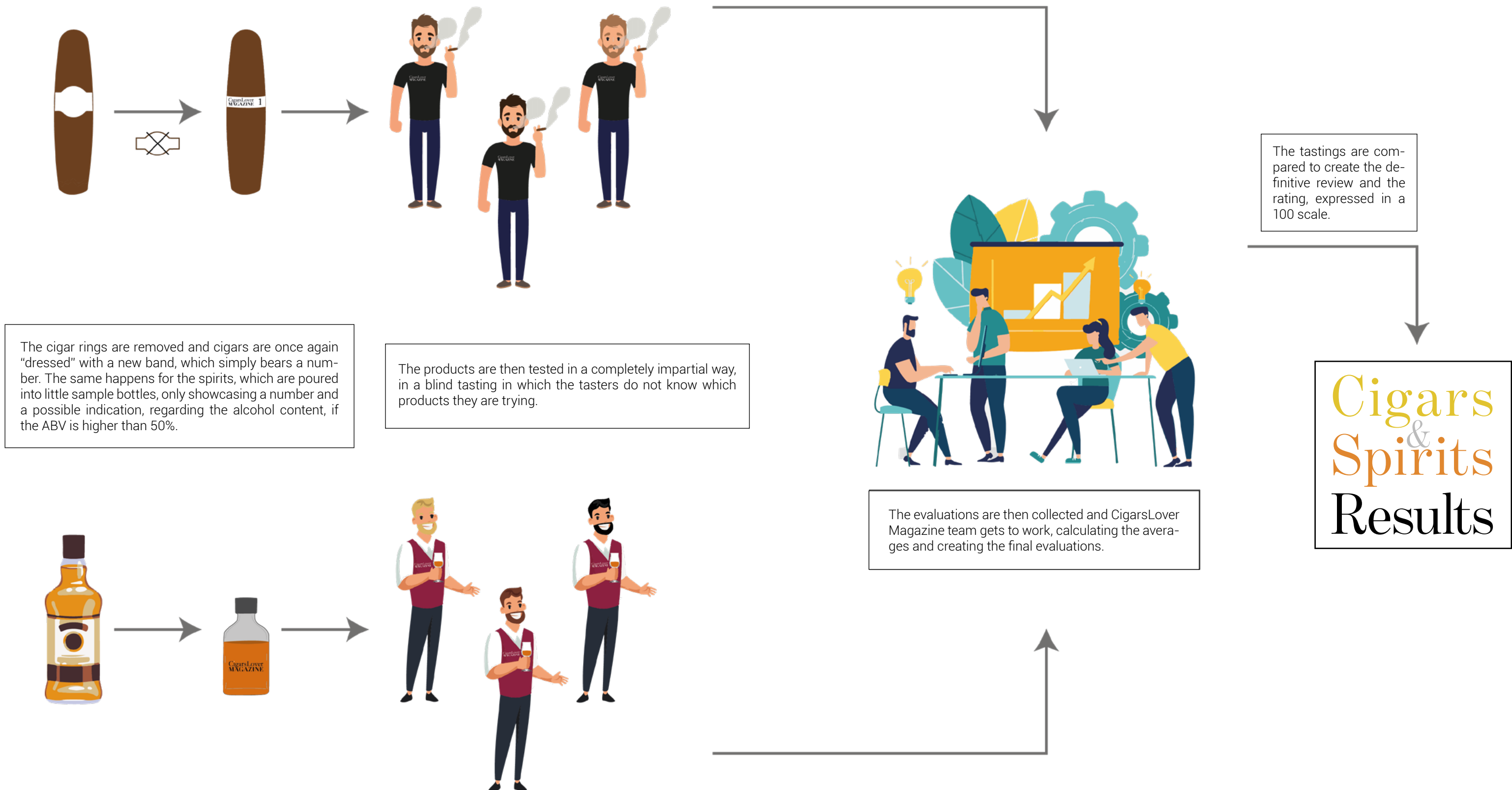
- 86 Rum
- 94 Whisky

**100** CIGARS

- 101 Gordo
- 104 Toro
- 111 Lonsdale
- 114 Robusto



# HOW ARE THE BLIND TASTINGS MADE?





1

KAVALAN  
Solist Fino Sherry

2

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Taiwan	57.8%   115.6	\$\$\$\$

3

— NOSE —

Ripe fruit, with rich plum notes, together with honey and a mix of exotic fruit, including coconut. Then cocoa.

— PALATE —

Exotic fruit, caramel and honey, along with rich white pepper notes and orange zest.

— FINISH —

Long persistence. White pepper, cocoa and walnut. A touch of orange peel.

Complex and incredibly rich, it is a very satisfying whisky.

94

4

5

# Legend

*All the information in the blind tasting*

To place the spirit inside of an ample rating scale, we adopt a scoring system made of 100 points. The rating of each spirit is made by the average given score by the reviewers. Blind tasting means every spirit is tested without knowing what it is. No information about the brand or origins are given. The reviewers only knows if the spirit is above 50% ABV.

- 1

Spirit image.
- 2

Name of the spirit reviewed.

“yo” means “Years Old” and indicates how many years the product has been matured. If there is no indication of that, it is because the producer didn't declare it.
- 3

  - COUNTRY: where the spirit is made.
  - ABV-PROOF: percentage of alcohol contained in the spirit.
  - PRICE:  
\$ less than \$50  
\$\$ between \$50 and \$100  
\$\$\$ between \$100 and \$250  
\$\$\$\$ above \$250
- 4

The tasting is divided in three parts: what is perceived to the nose, to the palate and in the finish. The final rows describe the overall experience that brought to the rating.
- 5

Rating scale: **95-100** memorable and excellent in every detail. **90-94** great quality and highly satisfying. **86-89** high quality and very pleasant. **81-85** decent, delivering a good dram . **Less than 80** not recommended.

# Spirits Lover MAGAZINE

400+  
SPIRITS  
TESTED  
YEARLY

# Rum



## The chosen 12

Twelve products coming from nine different country producer meet in this blind tasting, which includes rums ranging from below 50 dollars to well above 250.

## Results

Four out of the twelve rums tested registered 91 points or above. A couple of them come with a price below level of 100 dollars.



## ROYAL CANE *New Yarmouth 1994*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Jamaica	60.3%   120.6	\$\$\$\$

— NOSE —

It unleashes a riot of pan brioche, vanilla, caramel, toasted nuts and citrus essential oils.

— PALATE —

Caramel, dried fruit dipped in chocolate, and white pepper and hot spices. Citrus and floral hints.

— FINISH —

Long. Caramelized citrus, spices, mineral notes, tobacco, graphite, tea.

A phenomenal rum for the balance between power and elegance.

94



## MONTEBELLO *8 Year Old*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Guadeloupe	42%   84	\$\$

— NOSE —

Wood resin, cane juice, marzipan and raisins. A touch of chestnut honey. Then olives appear as well.

— PALATE —

Exotic ripe fruits, white pepper, honey, and vegetal notes. Then oak and wax. Hints of cocoa.

— FINISH —

Long. White pepper, vegetal notes, toasted woody notes. Plums.

Complex and deep, with an ample flavor profile and a great persistence.

93



## PÈRE LABAT *Xo*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Dominican Rep.	43%   86	\$\$

— NOSE —

Balsamic, with mint and menthol. Hints of yellow fruit. After a few moments. Licorice tips.

— PALATE —

Cooked fruit, menthol and cloves. Then Precious wood, dragee and honey. Citrus peel and cocoa hints.

— FINISH —

Long persistence. Wood spices, vegetal notes and honey.

Deep and complex, it is a well balanced and round rum.

92



# Spirits Lover MAGAZINE

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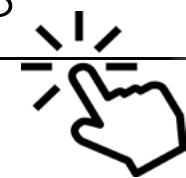
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*spirits-lover.com*

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FIND SPIRITS

---





SWELL  
DE SPIRITS  
*Barbados 2006*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Barbados	60.6%   121.8	\$\$\$

— NOSE —  
Exotic fruit in elegant notes of wood, tobacco, sweet spices, coconut milk, and morello cherries.

— PALATE —  
Warm and peppery. Aromas of toasted dried fruit, caramelized pralines, and there is also a citrus touch.

— FINISH —  
Long. Wood spices, tobacco, cinnamon, and hints of candied citrus.

A rich and structured product. It is very satisfying.

91



LES FRÈRES DE  
LA CÔTE  
*ex-Moscato 2022*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Jamaica	65.1%   130.2	\$\$

— NOSE —  
Scents of sherry, cherry, vanilla and wood varnish. Cocoa, toasted notes, vanilla and cherry wood.

— PALATE —  
Burnt match, cherry and cherry liqueur, wood spices, cocoa and toasted notes.

— FINISH —  
Long, with elgno spice, cherry and toasted notes.

Direct, powerful and rewarding. The alcoholic content is not fully integrated.

89



CHALONG BAY  
*Double barrel new french oak ex-Armagnac*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Thailand	47%   94	\$\$

— NOSE —  
The visou is preponderant with moist, brackish and slightly pungent notes.

— PALATE —  
Warm, viscous, with notes of salty licorice, sage, thyme honey, and a touch of white pepper.

— FINISH —  
Long. Intense visou, peppery spices, and brackish notes.

An amazing young product from Thailand who will not fail to amaze.

88



FLOR DE CANA  
*20 Year Old 130th anniversary*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Nicaragua	45%   90	\$\$

— NOSE —  
Red fruit and walnut, togethert with dark chocolate and cherries in alcohol. Wood spices.

— PALATE —  
Red fruit, honey, seasoned wood, cherries in alcohol. Dark chocolate, vanilla and vegetable nuances

— FINISH —  
Long. Red fruit and honey, wood spices and dark chocolate.

Intense, deep and well balanced flavor profile, with a marked intensity.

88



ZACAPA  
*La Doma*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Guatemala	40%   80	\$\$\$

— NOSE —  
Toasted and caramelized scents, vanilla, pecan nuts and maple syrup. Then mineral notes and orange zest.

— PALATE —  
Sweet and warm. Toasted and caramelized flavors: pecan nuts, maple syrup, and lots of vanilla.

— FINISH —  
Medium long. Notes of vanilla and caramel.

Easy to appreciate, harmonious, and with a good balance.

87



LABOURDON-  
NAIS  
*Xo*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Mauritius	42%   84	\$\$

— NOSE —  
Fresh visou, well softened by notes of wood and sweet spices.

— PALATE —  
Vegetal notes that are flanked by candied citrus fruits, acacia honey, and hazelnuts.

— FINISH —  
Medium. Vegetal with the noble spices of the wood chasing each other.

An expertly aged rum, well dosed in the agricultural soul.

87



EL PASADOR  
DE ORO  
*Xo*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Guatemala	40%   80	\$

—NOSE—  
Wood spices, toasted notes, cocoa, dried exotic fruit (mango and papaya), and caramelized cane.

—PALATE—  
Round, with notes of wood, toasted aromas, and candied fruit. There are also some spices.

—FINISH—  
Medium. Toasted and noble wood with mint.

It combines the tradition of Spanish ron with the elegance of cognac.

86



DOS MADERAS  
*PX 5+5*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Guyana	40%   80	\$

—NOSE—  
Rich vinous and dark hints with grape jam, plums, and cloves along with a drier note of tobacco and pecans.

—PALATE—  
Round, sherried notes with raisins, maraschino, chocolate and a more bitter note of tobacco.

—FINISH—  
Medium. Tobacco, plum and pecan, supported by a delicate sweetness.

A blend well dosed in the use of barrels and sugar.

85



CANEROCK

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Jamaica	40%   80	\$

—NOSE—  
Full of spiced rum with notes of vanilla, cinnamon, coconut and a touch of patchouli.

—PALATE—  
Creamy, with vanilla and cinnamon, but above all coconut, a slight hint of milk chocolate and brioche.

—FINISH—  
Medium finish dominated by notes of sweet wood and Bounty.

A sweet rum with a full and exuberant profile.

83

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# Whisky



### The chosen 12

Four are the producing countries which take part in this whisky blind tasting. There are some new releases and some core range bottlings.

### Results

Four whiskies reached the 90 points level. Two are from the United States, one comes from Scotland and one from New Zeland.



LEDAIG  
*18 Year Old*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Scotland	46.3%   92.6	\$\$\$

— NOSE —

Smoky notes along sea breeze and a fruity touch. Then wood spices, black pepper and oak wood.

— PALATE —

Smoky, with orange peel, wood spiced, sherry, and rostaed coffee beans. Sea breeze and loquorice.

— FINISH —

Long finish. Smoky, sea breeze and liquorice.

Rich, structured, and well explosive. Fulfilling and rich.

93



RESERVOIR  
*Holland's Milkman*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
U.S.A.	53.5%   107	\$\$\$

— NOSE —

Wood, toasted notes, pecan, maple syrup, and toffee tips. Then a mix of walnut and balsamic herbs. Malt.

— PALATE —

Oak, honey, and pecan nut. Light balsamic herbs. Then cocoa. Lastly, some smoky nuances.

— FINISH —

Long. Toasted wood, malt, and smoked tips.

Enveloping, intense, and endowed with a prolonged persistence.

92



THE  
OAMARUVIAN  
*18 Years Old 100*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
New Zealand	50%   100	\$\$

— NOSE —

Wet sultanas, strawberry and dates. Some herbal notes, refreshing the entire profile, in a nice way.

— PALATE —

Red fruity notes. Bloody orange and its essential oils and an astringent perception.

— FINISH —

Medium-long. Red fruit and notes of orange essential oils.

Unique experience. Warm and interesting, dynamic and juicy.

91



WOODFORD  
RESERVE  
*Double Oaked*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
U.S.A.	45.2%   90.4	\$

—NOSE—  
Dark fruity notes together with oak and honey. Then dark chocolate and toasted scents.

—PALATE—  
Aromas of oak, vanilla, caramel and wood spices. There is a touch of nuttiness to it.

—FINISH—  
Medium long. Notes of oak, vanilla and honey.

Rich, smooth and well balanced. Very enjoyable.

90



ARDNAMUR-  
CHAN  
*AD/02.22*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Scotland	58.7%   117.4	\$\$

—NOSE—  
Mineral peat, lemon cream, saline notes, hints of medicinal herbs, and sea breeze. Smoky.

—PALATE—  
Peat, smoky aromas and wood spices, with lemon zest. A touch of medicinal herbs and sea breeze.

—FINISH—  
Medium long. Medicinal herbs, peat and lemon zest. Smoky and salty.

Good structure. The peat is well integrated in the flavor profile.

89



DAD'S HAT  
*Finished in  
Vermouth Barrels*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
U.S.A.	47%   94	\$

—NOSE—  
Mint, vanilla, and wood. Then orange peel, cinnamon, white pepper and pecan nuts. A touch of dry figs.

—PALATE—  
Orange peel with cinnamon, vanilla, and white pepper. Hints of leather and toasted oak. Smooth.

—FINISH—  
Medium long finish. White pepper, vanilla and rich mint.

Well balanced. An interesting product with a simple to enjoy fruition.

88



GLENALLACHIE  
*12 Year Old*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Scotland	48%   96	\$\$

—NOSE—  
Yellow fruit notes (apple, peach, apricot), with lemon zest. Somehow floral. A pinch of salt and ginger.

—PALATE—  
Mineral at the entrance, salty yet fresh, of ginger. Yellow fruit notes with a hint of unripe cherry.

—FINISH—  
Medium. Creamy note of yellow fruit. A milk chocolate hint.

Straight-forward product, pleasant and simple to enjoy.

87



ARDBEG  
*Scorch*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Scotland	46%   92	\$\$\$

—NOSE—  
Fresh seawater and lemon peel. A hint of smoke with caramel. Thyme and fresh aromatic herbs.

—PALATE—  
Salty and mineral. Creamy, with toffee and burnt yellow fruit.

—FINISH—  
Medium. Clean and sweet, burnt yellow fruit.

Easy to drink and enjoy, with a rather simple flavor profile.

86



THREE SHIPS  
*12 Year Old*

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
South Africa	46.3%   92.6	\$

—NOSE—  
Peat, lemon peel and custard, with seasoned wood, hints of wood varnish, and vanilla. A touch of mint.

—PALATE—  
Vanilla, citrus peel, peat, and wood spices are confirmed, as well as rich smoky and toasted notes.

—FINISH—  
Medium-long, with wood spices, toasted and peaty notes. Slightly dry.

Fairly wide flavor profile, with a good intensity and persistence.

86



LAPHROAIG  
 10 Year Old  
 Sherry Cask Finish

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Scotland	48%   96	\$\$

— NOSE —  
 Peat, smoky notes, sherry, and a mix of medicinal and menthol notes. Then bacon and sea breeze.

— PALATE —  
 Peaty notes and vegetal aromas, supported by notes of sherry, wood, and cherries in alcohol. Wood spices.

— FINISH —  
 Medium. Quite balsamic, with menthol, and peat. Smoked.

Rich and fresh, but not that structured nor complex.

86



WOLFBURN  
 Love Potion

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Scotland	46%   92	\$\$

— NOSE —  
 Mineral peat, wood spices, cedar peel, and custard. Followed by toasted notes. Balsamic nuances.

— PALATE —  
 Wood spices, hints of black pepper, oak. Slightly dry. Then vanilla. Peated and smoked. Honey tips. Cedar peel.

— FINISH —  
 Medium. Wood spices, peat and rich notes of vanilla.

The flavor profile is not the widest, but is harmonious and well balanced.

86



ROYAL  
 BRACKLA  
 12 Year Old

COUNTRY	ABV - PROOF	PRICE
Scotland	40%   80	\$\$

— NOSE —  
 Scents of ripe fruit, among which rennet apples and stand out. Then cidar and a touch of honey.

— PALATE —  
 Warmer and darker with cooked red apples, toasted dried fruit, slightly brackish.

— FINISH —  
 Medium finish with banana chips, dried apricots, and a drizzle of smoke.

Fun and drinkable character guaranteed by an excellent balance.

85



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A MIRACULOUS LIE

Inspired to the miraculous and fraudulent remedies sold by charlatans in the 1700s.

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A craft amaro bitter, made by infusion and distillation of herbs, spices and barks.




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DRINK RESPONSIBLY

# Legend

All the information inside the blind tastings

To place cigars inside of an ample rating scale, we adopt a scoring system made of 100 points. The rating of each cigar is made by the average given score by the reviewers. Blind tasting means every cigar is smoked without knowing what the cigar is. No information about the brand, blend or size are given. This is the only way to evaluate cigars objectively.



1

**ADVENTURA**  
*Royal Return King's Gold Robusto*


*COMPLEX AND RICH*

It releases cocoa and citrus, enriched with earth and a touch of incense. The base is honeyed. Then, it continues with spicy notes of white pepper, which gradually become more intense, culminating in hot spices.

3

95

4



STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	52x127mm (5")	\$ 13.5   € 13.5
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
U.S.A.	MEXICO	DOMINICAN REP., NICARAGUA, U.S.A.

5

- 1

Cigar picture.
- 2

Cigar tasting notes: the flavor profile delivered throught the smoke.
- 3

Rating scale: 95-100 memorable and excellent in every detail. 90-94 great quality and highly satisfying. 86-89 high quality and very pleasant. 81-85 decent, delivering a good smoke . Under 80 not recommended.
- 4

Flag identifying the country where the cigar is made.



Cuba



Dominican Rep.



Nicaragua



Honduras



Brazil



Mexico



U.S.A.



Costa Rica



Italy



Philippines



Cina



Panama
- 5

- STRENGTH: described on a scale from "●" (lightest) to "●●●●●" (strongest).
  - SIZE: ring gauge (1/64 of inch) and legnth, written in both millimeters and inches.
  - PRICE: cigar price in US Dollar and Euro.
  - WRAPPER: the external leaf.
  - BINDER: the leaf under the wrapper.
  - FILLER: the leaves inside the cigar.

# Gordo



## The chosen 12

Four country producers are present in this Gordo blind tasting: Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico and Nicragua.

## Results

Two cigars reached the 90 points threshold, one is a Mexican and the other Honduran. What a duo.



CASA 1910  
JILGUERO

FLAVORFUL AND INTENSE

The cigar opens with a combination of wood and pepper. Further on, notes of roasted coffee are added. There is also a meaty sensation present throughout the smoke.

90 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	60x152mm (6")	\$ 17.9   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
MEXICO	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



FREUD  
SUPEREGO MAGNUM

FLAVORFUL AND DARK

The flavor profile of the cigar is rather dark, with heavy notes of Espresso, leather and oak. Aromas of roasted nuts are added in the second half.

86 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	60x152mm (6")	\$ 18   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP. NICARAGUA



ALADINO  
CAMEROON GORDO

BALANCED AND COMPLEX

Leather and coffee notes make up the core flavors of the profile, which are supported by aromas of cinnamon, nuts, and tea along the way.

90 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●	60x165mm (6 ½")	\$ 11   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
HONDURAS	HONDURAS	HONDURAS



PSYKO SEVEN  
NICARAGUA GORDO

BALANCED

The flavor profile delivers notes of black pepper, together with leather, earth and walnut. In the second half, In the central part, a balsamic vein is added. The finale is roasted, with espresso coffee.

84 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	60x152mm (6")	\$ 9.5   € 11.5
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



GILBERT DE MONTSALVAT  
REVOLUTION STYLE GORDO

LAYERED AND ROUND

Notes of Graham cracker, almonds, leather, and wood give way to the smoke. A pepper spice is added, together with aromas of sourdough bread.

89 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	60x152mm (6")	\$ -   € 8.9
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP.	NICARAGUA



EREZ  
HABANO GORDO

ONE DIMENTIONAL

Cinnamon and mineral notes are the prominent flavors throughout the smoke, without much variation. The second half becomes relatively dry.

80 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	58x152mm (6")	\$ 9.6   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
DOMINICAN REP.	DOMINICAN REP.	DOMINICAN REP.



UNDERCROWN  
SHADE GORDITO

CONTAINED BUT SMOOTH

The cigar circles a round a mix of hay, sourdough bread, and light nutty aromas. A relatively mild and contained smoke, but still quite smooth.

87 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●	62x152mm (6")	\$ 11.8   € 11.1
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP. NICARAGUA



EL VIEJO CONTINENTE  
MAXIMUM

FLAT

The first half of the cigar is made up of notes of wet wood and nuts, with a sour nuance perceptible as well. The profile devolves in the second half.

80 |

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	60x152mm (6 ¼")	\$ 7.3   € 7
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA

# Toros



## The chosen 12

Some novelties and classics, are featured in this Toros blind tasting. Three are the producing countries involved.

## Results

Two cigars scores reach the 90 points level. One is made in the Dominican Republic and the other in Nicaragua.



### HIRAM & SOLOMON REVIVAL TORO

COMPLEX AND BALANCED

In the first half, the flavor profile consists of mixed nuts, coffee, and pepper aromas. Cereal notes are added later on and joined by leather nuances towards the end.

92 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	52x152mm (6")	\$ 14   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP. U.S.A.



### STILLWELL STAR BAYOU NO. 32

UNIQUE

It delivers a sweet smoke, with spices, wood, and vegetal notes. In the second half, a balsamic touch is added. Then white pepper, together with a rich leather vein, complete the flavor profile.

91 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●	52x152mm (6")	\$ 12.5   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	MEXICO	NICARAGUA, U.S.A.



### LA AURORA 115 ANNIVERSARY TORO

RICH AND REFINED

It delivers oasted notes of coffee, leather and black, with a hint of cocoa powder. Later on, wal-nut and vegetal notes enrich the flavor profile.

90 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	54x146mm (5 3/4")	\$ 10.5   € 9.4
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	BRAZIL	BRAZIL, DOM. REP. NICARAGUA



### BALMORAL ANEJO XO CONNECTICUT GRAN TORO

BALANCED AND SMOOTH

Toasted notes open the smoke, followed by lea-ther and cereal aromas in the first half. The se-cond half changes to pepper, graham cracker, and vegetal notes.

90 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●	54x152mm (6")	\$ 11   € 9
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
U.S.A.	ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP., U.S.A.



NAT CICCICO ANIVERSARIO  
1965 LIGA NO.4 TORO

BALANCED AND FLAVORFUL

Pepper and wood give way to the smoke, followed by aromas of hay and cashews. The second half turns to toasted bread, cereals, and wood.

90

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	52x152mm (6")	\$ 8   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



CROWNED HEADS  
CHC SERIE E SUBLIME

BOLD

The flavor profile is all about earth, leather, and black pepper, with a nice balsamic vein added in the second half, together with some vegetal hints.

88

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	54x165mm (6 ½")	\$ 12.25   € 14
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



CRUX EPICURE  
HABANO TORO

INTENSE AND ROUND

The cigar starts out with nutty and vegetal aromas. Cinnamon, hay, and wood follow, with the smoke becoming enjoyably sapid toward the end.

90

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	52x159mm (6 ¼")	\$ 12.5   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



EREZ  
HABANO TORO

DIRECT

It delivers a mix of mineral notes and spices, with the cinnamon standing out. There is also a touch of nuts. In the second half, it becomes earhy.

83

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●	50x152mm (6")	\$ 7.5   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
DOMINICAN REP.	DOMINICAN REP.	DOMINICAN REP.



NOMOS

VERY ROUND

A mix of coffee, nuts, and wood make up the flavor profile in the first half. While the profile stays unchanged for most of the smoke, a citrus aroma is added towards the end.

89

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	56x152mm (6")	\$ 14.25   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
CAMEROON	INDONESIA	DOMINICAN REP., NICARAGUA



WEST TAMPA TOBACCO CO.  
BLACK TORO

INTENSE

The first half of the smoke is characterized by full-bodied notes of pepper, meat, cappuccino, and floral nuances. A woody note is added in the second half.

89

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	52x152mm (6")	\$ 10   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA

For the old, for the new,  
for *the epicure*  
in each of us.



CONVICTION IS WHAT CARRIES US  
TOWARD NEW ADVENTURES.

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| CIGAR & CHAMPAGNE PAIRINGS - TRUFFLE - HIGHEST PROOF BEERS - THE MEDALS OF WINE - HOT CHILI

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Nestor A. Plasencia

| LIANA FLUENTE - DOUBLE PUFF - PUNCH - ANDULLO - THE CIGAR RING - MICALFE CIGARS - LOUNGE: LISBONA  
| GLENDALOUGH: THE IRISH DISTILLERY - DINING WITH WHISKY - TRIPLE DISTILLATION - MORE THAN WINE  
| THE EVOLUTION OF THE BEER - A TEA WITH A CIGAR - T-BONE - INDIGENOUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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Alec Bradley - 25th

| THE SMOKING JACKET - INTERTABAK: TONY HOEVENAARS - COHIBA/CORONA - DELAYED - PAIRINGS: CIGARS & SPIRITS  
| BAR CORNER - RESERVOIR DISTILLERY - SOLERA: PLAYING WITH TIME - COCKTAIL: THE MOON WALK  
| OYSTERS AND WHISKY - CHAMPAGNE: PERLAGE & CIGARS - WINE: BEYOND THE FOURTH COLOR

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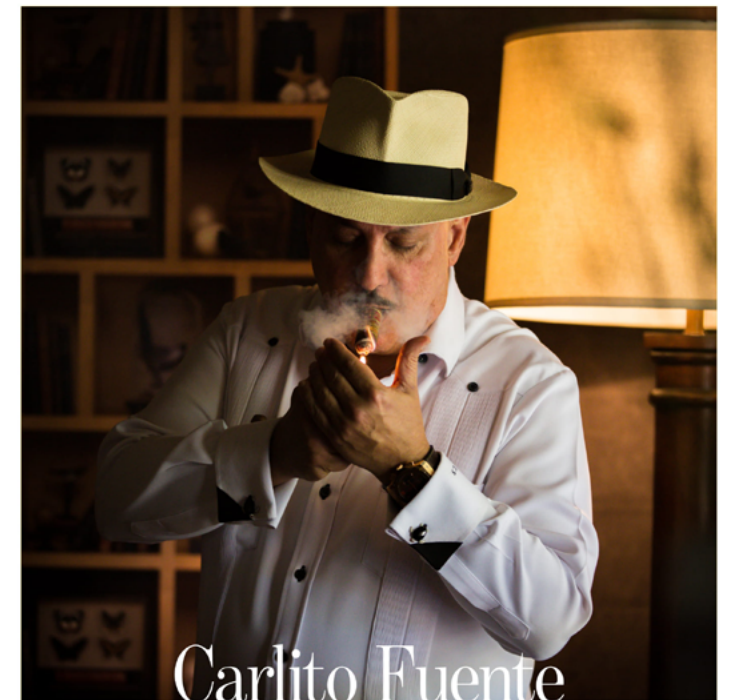


MONTEZEMOLO

| THE TOSCANO CIGAR - BOLIVAR - NICOTINE - LAURA CHAVIN - NIRKA REYES ESTRELLA - DOBLE CUÑO - PAIRINGS  
| READY TO DRINK - FAIR, ORGANIC AND ETHICAL - AMRUT: THE INTERVIEW - MONONGAHELA RYE - CANCHANCARA  
| THE ACIDITY AND TANNICITY OF WINE - AGED BEERS - PIPPALI, THE INDOONESIAN PEPPER - BBQ: SMOKY FLAVOUR

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Carlito Fuente

| ADVENTURA CIGARS - SCISSORS - TASTING TECHNIQUES - 5 MUST HAVE CUBANS - SIGARIE - BBQ & CIGARS  
| PROHIBITIONISM: A NEW BEGINNINGS - THE MOST ILLEGAL WHISKY IN HISTORY - TOP 10 DRINKS FOR SUMMER  
| TOBACCO & WHISKY IN SAUCE - COFFEE RECIPES FOR SUMMER - MEXICO: MOLE POBLANO - FRENCH WINES



# Lonsdale



## The chosen 12

Four countries are involved. There are some new releases and some classic Cubans. This size is getting a little more popular recently.

## Results

Three products stand out. One is from Dominican Republic, one from Honduras and one from Nicaragua. The latter is the winner, delivering a tremendous smoke.



### TODOS LAS DIAS THICK LONSDALE MAS FUERTE

*FULL YET BALANCED*

Earth, leather, and black pepper open the smoke. Aromas of herbs, wood, and nuts are added. The second half becomes spicier and balsamic notes close out the smoke.

92 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	46x152mm (6")	\$ 13.25   € 12.4
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



### ALADINO CAMEROON LONSDALE

*COMPLEX AND ROUND*

The profile revolves around aged wood and cinnamon spice. The core flavors are joined by aromas of walnut, herbs and vegetal nuances throughout the smoke.

91 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	43x152mm (6")	\$ 8   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
HONDURAS	HONDURAS	HONDURAS



### J. LONDON GOLD SERIES LONSDALE

*BALANCED AND FLAVORFUL*

Black pepper is the undisputed main aroma. The flavor profile is rounded out by coffee, leather, and hazelnut notes. Chili spice closes out the cigar.

90 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	42x165mm (6 ½")	\$ 19   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP.



### MONTECRISTO NO. 1

*WELL BALANCED*

It delivers aromas of wood, with notes of undergrowth and a touch of white pepper. There are some vegetal hints as well, especially in the second part of the smoke.

89 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	42x165mm (6 ½")	\$ -   € 14.4
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
CUBA	CUBA	CUBA



ROMEO Y JULIETA  
CAZADORES

BOLD

Rich leather and black pepper are enriched by wood, piquant spices, and earth. The spices get more pronounced in the second part, and in the finale a riot of chili and pepper ends the smoke.

89

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●●	44x162mm (6 ⅝")	\$ -   € 11.9
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
CUBA	CUBA	CUBA



AGANORSA LEAF GUARDIAN  
OF THE FARM CERBERUS

LINEAR AND BALANCED

The main flavor profile is made up of cinnamon spice, hazelnut, and wood. There is also a sweet undertone perceptible.

88

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	44x152mm (6")	\$ 9.5   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



ROOM 101  
FARCE LONSDALE

FULL

It delivers black pepper, bark, and a mix of spices, with mineral nuances. In the second half, cocoa aromas are added, together with woody and nutty nuances.

87

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●●	42x165mm (6 ½")	\$ 10.5   € 11
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	INDONESIA	DOMINICAN REP., NICARAGUA, USA



FERIO TEGO TIMELESS  
STERLING DALIAS

LESS PERFORMING IN THE SECOND HALF

It delivers toasted notes and wood, together with white pepper. In the second half aromas of walnut are added, but the flavor profile tends to get a little bitter. Vegetal notes in the finale.

85

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	43x165mm (6 ½")	\$ 12.75   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP.	DOMINICAN REP.

CigarMate

Handmade CigarMate  
for handmade cigars



**The CigarMate is a cigarholder created to let your cigar lay on a smooth surface of wood, providing the best natural support.**

The design is completely studied in Italy and the production is entrusted to the most experienced woodworkers of the Philippines. Each CigarMate is completely made by hand, starting from a block of mahogany wood and slowly giving it size and shape. At the end of the process the cigarholder is lacquered manually with a brush. Each one has small differences from the others, which make it unique.

The CigarMate is composed of several collectible pieces.

# Robustos



### The chosen 12

The cigars featured in this blind tasting come from five different producing countries: Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

### Results

Seven of the Robustos tested scored at least 90 points. This is something that doesn't happen quite often and it's proof on how good nowadays production is.



### ROMEO Y JULIETA LINEA DE ORO HIDALGOS

*RICH AND CREAMY*

It develops fine wood, white pepper and roasted coffee beans. Later on, leather and balsamic notes enrich the smoke, together with walnut nuances.

93

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	57x125mm (4 7/8")	\$ -   € 55
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
CUBA	CUBA	CUBA



### DIAMOND CROWN BLACK DIAMOND RADIANT

*BALANCED AND COMPLEX*

Aromas of dark chocolate, coffee, and mineral notes make up the profile in the first half. Pepper, walnut, and wood are added in the second half.

93

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	54x127mm (4 1/2")	\$ 18   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
U.S.A.	DOMINICAN REP.	DOMINICAN REP.



### LA AURORA 1903 CAMEROON ROBUSTO

*BROAD AND ROUND*

Wood, pepper, and coffee are perceptible in the first half, joined by raisins and vegetal nuances. The profile becomes more pronounced, and a caramel note is added.

92

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●	50x127mm (5")	\$ 7   € 6.8
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
ECUADOR	ECUADOR	DOMINICAN REP., NICARAGUA



### OLMEC CLARO ROBUSTO

*BOLD AND RICH*

It delivers earthy and nutty notes, as well as the black pepper. Hints of cappuccino and roasted coffee are followed by balsamic herbs. Seasoned wood completes the flavor profile.

91

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●●	50x127mm (5")	\$ 13.5   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
NICARAGUA	MEXICO	NICARAGUA



GRAN HABANO XX ANIVERSARIO E. LIMITADA EL SUEÑO

SMOOTH

The flavor profile in the first half of the cigar consists of a mix of graham cracker, cinnamon, and cedarwood. A nutty component is added in the second half.

90 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	52x127mm (5")	\$ 14   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA	COLOMBIA, NICARAGUA, PERU



SAINT LUIS REY REGIOS

CREAMY

It delivers cedarwood, leather, and earth, together with some spices nuances. In the second half, it turns to roasted coffee beans aromas, cappuccino, and black pepper.

88 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	48x127mm (5")	\$ -   € 10
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
CUBA	CUBA	CUBA



MONTECRISTO EDMUNDO

RICH AND FULFILLING

It develops notes of earth, wood, and spices, with the black pepper standing out. In the second half, leather and roasted notes of coffee are added.

90 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	52x135mm (5 3⁄8")	\$ -   € 18
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
CUBA	CUBA RICA	CUBA



AGANORSA LEAF LA VALIDATION HABANO

COMPLEX AND ROUND

A mix of nuts and wood is revealed in the opening. Aromas of coffee and cereals follow. The smoke is creamy and smooth on the palate.

88 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	54x127mm (5")	\$ 8.75   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA



STOLEN THRONE CROOK OF THE CROWN

BALANCED AND FLAVORFUL

Balsamic and mineral notes give way to the smoke supported by aromas of cocoa and nuts. Fresh wood and a mix of spices are added in the second half.

90 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●●	50x140mm (5 1⁄2")	\$ 14   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
MEXICO	INDONESIA	INDONESIA, NICARAGUA



FSG 20 ACRE FARM ROBUSTO

SHARP

The cigar starts out with bitter almonds and a mix of spices. A woody aroma is added in the second half, where the smoke becomes unpleasantly bitter and sharp.

83 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●	54x133mm (5 1⁄4")	\$ 12.4   € -
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
U.S.A.	NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA, U.S.A.



BRUN DEL RE 1787 RAIN FOREST LONG ROBUSTO

REFINED

It delivers a mix of vegetal and wet earth aromas, together with coffee nuanced. In the second half, wood and black pepper join the flavor profile.

88 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	50x140mm (5 1⁄2")	\$ -   € 9
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
COSTA RICA	COSTA RICA	COSTA RICA



PARCERO BRAZIL ROBUSTO

RUSTIC

The flavor profile consists mainly of black pepper and hazelnut. A leather note is also perceptible in the background throughout the smoke.

83 

STRENGTH	SIZE	PRICE
●●●	50x127mm (5")	\$ -   € 5.2
WRAPPER	BINDER	FILLER
BRAZIL	MEXICO	BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REP.

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