

Cigar Insider

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FEATURED CIGAR

PADRÓN 1964 ANNIVERSARY SERIES MADURO TORO

NICARAGUA ■ PRICE: \$14.14 ■ BODY: MED. TO FULL

For a full tasting, see page two.

94

POINTS

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ERNIE ELS COMES BACK

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPION Ernie Els may be a super talent on the links, but the December issue of *Cigar Aficionado* shows a man whose life goes far beyond the golf tour. Plus, an interview with La Palina brand owner Bill Paley, our annual holiday gift guide of cigar gear and ratings for 75 smokes. To see a preview of the issue's top scores, turn to page two.

CIGAR INSIDER RATINGS FOR HIGHLY ANTICIPATED BRANDS

HEADLEY GRANGE AND LA DUEÑA ARE NOW ON STORE SHELVES. Cigar smokers have waited for months to try these new brands since they were introduced at this year's IPCPR trade show, while attendees of the show who smoked samples have been clamoring for a reprise. This issue has ratings for both. Headley Grange is distributed by Crowned Heads LLC, which is owned by Mike Conder and Jon Huber, but made by Ernesto Perez-Carrillo in the Dominican Republic. It's the debut of the company's second brand and has only been released in one size—the Estupendo. La Dueña is Spanish for “the female owner” and was blended for Janny Garcia of My Father Cigars, who was smitten with the sweetness of Connecticut Broadleaf wrapper. Each La Dueña cigar wears an eye-catching band that resembles a cameo. To see how they scored in our blind test, see page four.

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TASTING REPORT: EXCLUSIVE DECEMBER 2012 CIGAR AFICIONADO PREVIEWS



94

RING GAUGE: 54
LENGTH: 5 1/2"
FILLER: Nicaragua
BINDER: Nicaragua
WRAPPER: Nicaragua

PADRÓN 1964 ANNIVERSARY SERIES MADURO TORO

NICARAGUA

Rich and heavy with roasted espresso and dark cocoa bean flavors that are complemented by notes of dried cherries and ripe apple. Flavorful and sophisticated.

Price: \$14.14

Body: Medium To Full



93

RING GAUGE: 49
LENGTH: 4 7/8"
FILLER: Dom. Rep.
BINDER: Dom. Rep.
WRAPPER: Cameroon

ASHTON HERITAGE PURO SOL BELICOSO NO. 2 DOM. REP.

A well-made mini torpedo with a richly hued oily wrapper. It's a tasty smoke whose bold leather and coffee notes are balanced by a chocolate sweetness.

Price: \$8.50

Body: Medium



93

RING GAUGE: 52
LENGTH: 5 1/2"
FILLER: Cuba
BINDER: Cuba
WRAPPER: Cuba

BOLIVAR BELICOSO FINO

CUBA

Though there's a slightly firm draw to this belicoso, plenty of rich, leathery flavors are communicated to the palate, as are semisweet chocolate notes and cedar.

Box Date: March 2012

Price: £16.14 (U.K.)

Body: Medium To Full



93

RING GAUGE: 57
LENGTH: 7 1/4"
FILLER: Cuba
BINDER: Cuba
WRAPPER: Cuba

CUABA SALOMON

CUBA

This well-crafted figurado is supple to the touch and full of rich maple and brown sugar flavors that take on cocoa bean notes. It has a long, pleasant fresh tobacco finish.

Box Date: August 2011

Price: £30.70 (U.K.)

Body: Medium

100 POINT SCALE

95-100: Classic ■ 90-94: Outstanding ■ 80-89: Very good to excellent ■ 70-79: Average to good commercial quality
 Below 70: Don't waste your money ■ N/A: Not Available *Note: Prices are manufacturers' suggested retail, before taxes.*

TASTING REPORT: EXCLUSIVE DECEMBER 2012 CIGAR AFICIONADO PREVIEWS



93

RING GAUGE: 50
LENGTH: 4 7/8"
FILLER: Cuba
BINDER: Cuba
WRAPPER: Cuba

PARTAGÁS SERIE D NO. 4

CUBA

Rolled with a flat head, this robusto burns and draws evenly. Top notes of wood and caramel are balanced by base flavors of dark, semisweet chocolate and earth that linger on the palate.

Box Date: November 2011

Price: £15.14 (U.K.)

Body: Medium to Full



93

RING GAUGE: 40
LENGTH: 7 1/2"
FILLER: Cuba
BINDER: Cuba
WRAPPER: Cuba

TRINIDAD FUNDADOR

CUBA

Nearly perfect in appearance, this slim cigar has some resistance to the draw but burns evenly. Earthy and peppery flavors layer the palate before a dried cherry sweetness and a subtle spice.

Box Date: September 2010

Price: £23.55 (U.K.)

Body: Medium



92

RING GAUGE: 52
LENGTH: 6 1/4"
FILLER: Nicaragua, Dom. Rep.
BINDER: Nicaragua
WRAPPER: Nicaragua

KRISTOFF COROJO LIMITADA TORPEDO

DOM. REP.

A tasty and bold dark torpedo with an even draw and fine burn. Sweet anise and raisin notes take on richness and minerality as the cigar progresses.

Price: \$10.00

Body: Medium To Full



92

RING GAUGE: 48
LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: Dom. Rep., Nicaragua
BINDER: Dom. Rep.
WRAPPER: Honduras

NAT SHERMAN TIMELESS COLLECTION CHURCHILL

DOM. REP.

This cigar is draped in an oily Colorado-colored wrapper. Its lush draw reveals rich notes of walnut, cedar and chocolate flavors before a pleasantly floral finish.

Price: \$7.50

Body: Medium

100 POINT SCALE

95-100: Classic ■ 90-94: Outstanding ■ 80-89: Very good to excellent ■ 70-79: Average to good commercial quality
 Below 70: Don't waste your money ■ N/A: Not Available *Note: Prices are manufacturers' suggested retail, before taxes.*

TASTING REPORT

LA DUEÑA

NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: My Father Cigars S.A.

Distributor: My Father Cigars Inc.

Filler: U.S.A./Conn. Broadleaf, Nicaragua

Binder: U.S.A./Conn. Broadleaf, Nicaragua

Wrapper: U.S.A./Conn. Broadleaf

Release Date: September 2012

PETIT ROBUSTO

90 POINTS ■ 4 1/2" x 50 ■ \$7.50

Dark and streaky, this veiny robusto is earthy and spicy with touches of cedar and mint. Cinnamon-sugar sweetness and a touch of leather add complexity.

Body: Medium to Full

PETIT BELICOSO NO. 9

89 POINTS ■ 4 3/4" x 48 ■ \$7.00

The oily wrapper of this mini torpedo is dark and streaky, and the draw is lush. Dominant woody notes of oak and cedar are accented by underlying coffee flavors.

Body: Medium

ROBUSTO NO. 5

89 POINTS ■ 5" x 50 ■ \$8.25

This dark robusto is sweet and savory with an even draw, imparting touches of walnut and fresh mint around a core of woody flavors that recur on the finish.

Body: Medium

BELICOSO NO. 2

88 POINTS ■ 5 1/2" x 54 ■ \$8.75

Perfumey and floral, this torpedo imparts some toasted marshmallow notes and bitter chocolate through a lush draw, though the finish is somewhat thin.

Body: Medium

PETIT LANCERO NO. 7

88 POINTS ■ 6" x 42 ■ \$7.75

Thick veins streak the dark wrapper of this pigtailed smoke. Sweet nougat and nut flavors are offset slightly by a peppery charcoal finish.

Body: Medium to Full

BRAND SUMMARY: Janny Garcia, the daughter in the father-son-daughter team behind My Father Cigars, has a new brand called La Dueña. Spanish for “the female owner,” La Dueña was crafted to her tastes by her brother Jaime and Pete Johnson of Tatuaje cigars. The sweet and savory blend did well, with the Petit Robusto size scoring the highest at 90 points.

Average Rating: 88.8 points

HEADLEY GRANGE

NEW RELEASE

Country: Dominican Republic

Maker: Tabacalera La Alianza S.A.

Distributor: Crowned Heads LLC

Filler: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Release Date: October 2012

ESTUPENDO

91 POINTS ■ 5 1/2" x 52 ■ \$9.25 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

This well-made, softly box-pressed corona gorda starts with a creamy woodiness before gaining momentum as toasted almond, spice and rich coffee flavors emerge.

Body: Medium to Full

ROMEO Y JULIETA

NEW SIZE

Country: Cuba

Maker: N/A

Distributor: Habanos S.A.

Filler: Cuba

Binder: Cuba

Wrapper: Cuba

Box Date: June 2012

PETIT CHURCHILL

91 POINTS ■ 4" x 50 ■ £13.60 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

Salty and woody, this short, stout cigar has an even burn. The smoke takes on a floral note to complement its savory core, leaving spicy and oak flavors on the palate.

Body: Medium

100 POINT SCALE

95-100: Classic ■ 90-94: Outstanding ■ 80-89: Very good to excellent ■ 70-79: Average to good commercial quality
Below 70: Don't waste your money ■ N/A: Not Available *Note: Prices are manufacturers' suggested retail, before taxes.*

CIGAR NEWS

CUBAN HOYO MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR LA CASA DEL HABANO

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

There's a new Cuban **Hoyo de Monterrey**, but it will only be available at La Casa del Habano retail shops. With more than 140 locations worldwide, La Casa del Habano is an international franchise partially owned by Cuban cigar distributor Habanos S.A. Each year, these official tobacco-nists receive special cigars, and the 2012 release is a Hoyo de Monterrey Epicure de Luxe. It measures 4 1/2 inches by 52 ring (the same size, or *vitola*, as the **Cohiba Maduro 5 Mágicos**) and comes in boxes of 10.



Like all cigars specifically aimed at Casa del Habanos, the Epicure de Luxe is demarcated by a secondary sienna-colored band gilded with the Casa del Habano logo.

Not all Casa del Habano stores have received the cigar. Phoenicia Trading, for example, a regional distributor that supplies more than 40 countries, has already received the new smoke. The Epicure de Luxe can be found at the duty-free Casa del Habano shops in Lebanon's Beirut International Airport and Dubai's Jumeirah Beach Residence shop where it retails for \$8.50. Canada's Casa del Habano in Windsor, Ontario, also has them in stock, but it's more expensive with an asking price of 23.70 Canadian dollars (around \$24.00), while the Casa in Hong Kong is charging HK\$198 (around \$25.55). Other regions such as Mexico, Italy and the U.K. still await shipment.

The Epicure de Luxe is a unique size in the Hoyo de Monterrey size portfolio, as the Casa del Habano exclusives usually are. Previous releases such as the **H. Upmann Royal**

Robusto, **La Gloria Cubana Inmenso** and **Ramon Allones Allones Superiores** were all special, limited-edition vitolas made outside the normal parameters of the Habanos size chart. (See table for release dates and ratings.)

For a rating of the Hoyo de Monterrey Epicure de Luxe, see an upcoming issue of *Cigar Insider*. ■

LA CASA DEL HABANO EXCLUSIVES

2011	H. Upmann Royal Robusto	5 3/8" x 52	93
2010	La Gloria Cubana Inmenso	6 1/2" x 54	90
2010	Ramon Allones Allones Superiores	5 5/8" x 46	90
2009	H. Upmann Noella	5 3/8" x 42	93
2008	Partagás Salomon	7 1/4" x 57	93
2007	Partagás Culebra	5 3/4" x 39	89
2007	Bolivar Gold Medal	6 1/2" x 42	88
2006	San Cristobal de la Habana Mercaderes	6 5/8" x 48	90
2006	San Cristobal de la Habana Muralla	7 1/8" x 54	89
2006	San Cristobal de la Habana Oficios	5 3/8" x 43	88

Source: *Cigar Insider*

EIROA OPENING NEW FACTORY IN MIAMI

BY DAVID SAVONA

Christian Eiroa, the former president of Camacho Cigars and the head of CLE Cigar Co., is opening a new cigar factory in Miami next month. Wynwood Cigar Factory, his newest venture, will be rolling cigars on a small scale in the city's artistic and colorful Wynwood arts warehouse district. The brand is appropriately called **Wynwood**.

"This has become my home office," said Eiroa in an email. The edgy factory, which Eiroa owns in partnership with Robert Caldwell, will be staffed with only 10 rollers, most of whom trained in Honduras, where Eiroa's CLE cigars are made.

The Wynwood district was developed by the late Tony Goldman, the famed builder who transformed SoHo and South Beach. Buildings in Wynwood are covered in artistic graffiti, which is encouraged by owners of the buildings, and the Wynwood Cigar Factory has a graffiti-message remembering and memorializing the work of Goldman who died in September.

Wynwood is a milder cigar that will sport a colorful band reminiscent of a rainbow.

Look for more information on the factory opening in a future issue of *Cigar Insider*. ■

E.P. CARRILLO RELEASES FULL-BODIED CARDINAL SERIES

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

Cigarmaker Ernesto Perez-Carrillo has just released the **E.P. Carrillo Cardinal Series**, and he claims that it's the strongest, most full-bodied cigar in his entire brand portfolio. His company handed out samples of the new blend over the summer during the IPCPR trade show, and the cigars began shipping to tobacconists in mid-October.

"We wanted to round out the E.P. Carrillo portfolio with a full-bodied cigar and this is how the Cardinal Series came about," said Perez-Carrillo. "It is a blend of tobaccos from three different farms in Nicaragua."

Cardinal comes in two varieties: natural, which is made with an Ecuador Sumatra wrapper, and maduro, with a darker Connecticut Broadleaf wrapper. Both use bold, Nicaraguan filler tobaccos and come in three sizes: Cardinal 52, 5 inches by 52 ring; Cardinal 54, 6 by 54; and Cardinal 56, 5 1/2 by 56. They retail from \$7.25 to \$8.75 and are packaged in striking scarlet boxes of 20.

The band's normal color scheme has been inverted for distinction, as the bottom half of the E.P. Carrillo Cardinal band is red and the E.P. logo is rendered in black—exactly opposite of the core **E.P. Carrillo** line. Cardinal is a regular-production cigar and made at Perez-Carrillo's Tabacalera La Alianza factory in the Dominican Republic.

Where did the name Cardinal come from? According to Ernesto Perez-Carrillo III: "When my sister and I first saw the Cardinal Series box, the first thing that we thought of was the bird—Cardinals are red with black markings. Also, I went to Stanford University, and their sports teams are called the Stanford Cardinals, so we took this as a sign. Hopefully, the name will give us good luck!"

Perez-Carrillo, a new member of the *Cigar Aficionado* Hall of Fame, made the **La Gloria Cubana** brand for many years. He also makes **Four Kicks** and **Headley Grange** cigars for Crowned Heads LLC in Nashville, Tennessee. ■

ENTUBAR V3-D ADDS THIRD TIER OF TOBACCO

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA



Berger and Argenti has followed up on its unique **Entubar** brand with **Entubar V3-D**, a line of cigars rolled with two successive tiers of different tobacco protruding from the foot.

In 2009, Berger & Argenti released Entubar, a cigar whose "entubado" rolling method was accentuated by a small segment of rolled (or entubed) tobacco that extended beyond the cigar's foot. This small protrusion was in fact a solid core of ligero tobacco that ran through the entire length of the cigar. Now, brand owner Michael Argenti has taken this concept to the next level by adding an additional tier of tobacco, giving the cigar what Argenti calls "three distinctly separate cigar stages."

The longest protrusion, or "Stage 1" is a 22 ring gauge core of ligero tobacco from Estelí. Around it is the second tier, or "Stage 2," a 48 ring gauge level of Nicaraguan viso from Condega that is ultimately enveloped by "Stage 3," which consists of Nicaraguan seco from Jalapa. All the visibly protruding plugs of tobacco run the length of the entire cigar. The wrapper is a dark leaf of Nicaraguan maduro tobacco, also from Jalapa.

"Entubar is a cigar within a cigar and V3-D allowed me to use another classification of tobacco," Argenti said. "The middle core of ligero serves as a fulcrum for the bunch. From a combustion standpoint, the leaves are positioned to produce a strong ash and conical ember, but the physics of V3-D are different than what you'd find on normal cigars."

The cigar was only previewed selectively at this summer's IPCPR trade show in Orlando, and few people received samples or literature about the V3-D from Berger & Argenti on account of its scarcity—very few samples were ready in time for the show. Because of its unorthodox format, the cigar requires an extra level of training, and it takes more time for the rollers to perfect Entubar's multi-tier format of protruding tobacco. This year, only a limited number of V3-D cigars are being made. The first production run will consist of only 40,000 cigars, or 2,000 boxes of each size.

Made at the GGM Factory in Nicaragua, Entubar V3-D comes in two sizes: Tres Hombres at 5 1/2 inches by 64 ring, and Tres Leches at 6 1/2 by 64. They will retail for \$17.50 and \$20.00 respectively, once the 10-count boxes begin hitting shelves in late November. ■



NICARAGUAN TOBACCO FOR HAMMER+SICKLE

BY ANDREW NAGY

When Hammer+Sickle brand owner Eric Hanson wanted to add a medium- to full-bodied cigar to his brand portfolio, he immediately thought of Nicaraguan tobacco.

"This strength profile is the country's sweet spot, if you will," said Hanson. And thus was born Hammer+Sickle's new **Hermitage No. 1 St. Petersburg**, the brand's first cigar that incorporates tobaccos from Nicaragua, which is now on its way to retail shops throughout the United States.

Introduced at this summer's IPCPR trade show, Hermitage No. 1 sports an all-ligero binder composed of tobacco grown in Estelí, and the filler is a mix of Criollo leaf from the Jalapa Valley. The all-Nicaraguan insides are covered by an Ecuadoran Habano wrapper.

As with Hanson's other cigar lines, which include **Tradicion Serie**, **Berlin Wall**, **Moscow City** and **Second Growth**, the packaging for Hermitage is striking by design. For Hermitage, Hanson chose

to use dark brown leather with exposed stitching to create a 20-count box that, he believes, "relays the cigar's powerful elegance."

Hermitage, which is being rolled at Tabacalera Aguilar in Honduras (another first for Hammer+Sickle), will debut in three sizes: 5 by 52 Robusto, 6 by 54 Toro and a 7 by 56 Double Corona. The line runs between \$8.40 and \$8.80. ■



CUSANO TO DEBUT NEW COROJO LINE

BY G. CLAY WHITTAKER

New Cusano cigars will be hitting shelves next month for the first time in four years, and the new line will reintroduce a popular wrapper to the brand. **Cusano 18 Corojo Dominicano** is getting ready to ship early in November, and it will be the first corajo cigar from Davidoff-owned Cusano since the Cusano Corojo Vintage 1997 line was cancelled in 2007.

The Cusano 18 Corojo Dominicano is a response to

what Cusano brand manager J.T. Guagliardo says is a lot of demand for a new corajo. Cusano has not produced a corajo line since 2007, when they discontinued the Cusano Corojo '97. "The cigar was a great hit, but we ran out of that specific corajo wrapper leaf to continue the blend," says Guagliardo. "We didn't want to continue that line and just change the wrapper." Corojo '97 featured an Ecuadoran wrapper, Dominican filler tobaccos and a Mexican Sumatra-seed binder.

The Corojo Dominicano blend actually includes elements from two other cigars in the Cusano 18 line: the **Cusano 18 Double Connecticut** and the **Cusano 18 Paired Maduro**. The filler is a combination of Connecticut Broadleaf (from the Paired Maduro), Dominican Piloto Viso and San Vicente Especial (common with Double Connecticut), and the supposedly 18-year-old Oro Seco (the common thread throughout all Cusano 18 blends, and a Dominican leaf commonly used for wrappers by Cusano). The actual wrapper is Dominican Corojo, while the binder is a leaf of Dominican Criollo.

The cigar is being rolled in the Dominican Republic at Henke Kelner's O.K. (Occidental Kelner) Cigar Factory, and will come in four sizes: Robusto, 5 by 50 (\$5.99); Toro, 6 1/2 by 46 (\$6.24); Gordo, 6 1/4 by 54 (\$6.89); and Churchill, 7 1/4 by 50 (\$7.06).

Every size of the Cusano 18 Corojo Dominicano will come in boxes of 18. The line is expected to ship at the beginning of November and should hit shelves before Thanksgiving. ■

TATUAJE REVIVES MUMMY FOR NEWEST MONSTER SERIES CIGAR

BY ANDREW NAGY

Tatuaje brand owner Pete Johnson has again reached into his bag of supernatural Halloween tricks and released *The Mummy*, the fifth edition in his highly coveted **Tatuaje Monster Series** of cigars.

The newest Monster Series member is *The Mummy*, a 7 3/4 inch by 47 ring gauge cigar that retails for \$13. Like the other Monster Series cigars—*The Frank*, *The Drac*, *The Face* and *The Wolfman*—*The Mummy* is a limited-edition smoke based on a monster from classic horror cinema. *The Mummy* is an homage to the monster played by Boris Karloff in the 1932 horror movie *The Mummy*.

The Mummy's bunch, which is entirely Nicaraguan and a variation of Tatuaje's Black Label, is covered by a Criollo wrapper grown in Estelí.

Like all of the Monster Series cigars, special care has

gone into the packaging of The Mummy. Tatuaje's Andy Anderson said The Mummy's special dress-box, which is painted stark white, is supposed to resemble a sarcophagus, down to an image of King Tut on the lid. Inside is a ring of 12 cigars that wrap around one cigar completely covered in tissue paper, a nod to the gauze of a mummy. Initially, says Anderson, the idea was to wrap each of the 13 cigars, but there wasn't enough time to carry this out before launch. The thin gray band used for the cigar is also meant to conjure images of rags and gauze.

Anderson said that while 676 of the special dress-boxes were constructed, only 666 will be sent to retailers, each individually numbered. Like in years past, the retailers who receive the special dress-boxes, dubbed the "unlucky 13," were chosen via lottery system. Additionally, 3,100 plain boxes (1,600 more than last year) of 10 were made, too. The plain boxes have Tatuaje printed on the lid with the words "Halloween 2012 #5" directly below.

Retailers likely welcome the additional 1,600 plain-dress boxes. While collectors have made the Monster Series a commercial success for Johnson, their zeal to get their hands on the limited-edition cigar has also been a bit of a distribution headache for Tatuaje in the past. To ensure everyone who really wants The Mummy has a good chance of getting it, Tatuaje decided it best to ramp up the number of plain boxes.

Johnson has also again partnered with S.T. Dupont to create a special Mummy lighter that coincides with the release. For the past three Monster Series, Johnson worked with the French accessories maker to create limited-edition Monster Series lighters. The Mummy lighter is a white Maxijet with a finish of black lines that resemble gauze bandaging. ■

REINADO RELEASES GRAND EMPIRE RESERVE

BY G. CLAY WHITTAKER

Reinado, the cigar brand owned by Cubanero Enterprises LLC, is shipping its first cigar in the **Reinado Grand Empire Reserve** line this month.

Reinado Grand Empire Reserve is a Nicaraguan puro made in only one size called Elegidos, a 5 inch by 55 ring robusto retailing for \$9.95. The individual sticks have what brand owner Antonio Lam calls a "soft box press," crafted with more subtle edges than many traditional box-pressed cigars. It is produced at the Agros Tabacos Industriales factory in Condega, Nicaragua, along with the core line of Reinado cigars, which debuted in 2009. ■

CIGAR AFICIONADO's BIG SMOKE 2012 SCHEDULE

November 9-11

LAS VEGAS • THE MIRAGE

Big Smoke evenings scheduled on Friday and Saturday, as well as cigar and lifestyle educational seminars on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

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