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FIFTH SIZE ADDED TO FOUR KICKS

BY DAVID SAVONA

A new, thinner size is being added to the **Four Kicks** brand. The small production line, made for Nashville, Tennessee's Crowned Heads LLC, by Ernesto Perez-Carrillo in the Dominican Republic, debuted late last year with a quartet of sizes. Crowned Heads co-founder Jon Huber recently visited the *Cigar Insider* offices for a first taste of the new size, called Selección No. 5.

Measuring 6 1/2 inches long by 44 ring gauge (which would make it a lonsdale in our taste tests), the cigar is made from the Four Kicks blend of Ecuadoran Habano wrapper, Nicaraguan binder and Nicaraguan filler.

Despite only being rolled a few weeks ago, the young smoke burned beautifully, with just a small blister, and had an almondine character with a touch of cedar and nutmeg. As it burned, it grew earthier, and remained very balanced and easygoing.

The smoke is the thinnest so far in the line. Four Kicks had a strong debut in the December 6 *Cigar Insider*, with an 88, two 90s and a 91 point score for the Corona Gorda.

Huber described the philosophy behind the brand as making "old-fashioned sizes," without cellophane and in plain wooden boxes. The gold and red bands, which are printed by Vrijdag Premium Printing in Eindhoven, Netherlands, look old school.

Huber also told *Cigar Insider* Crowned Heads would come out with a new brand at the International Premium Cigar and Pipe Retailers trade show this summer. Unlike Four Kicks, this brand will be a limited



edition, with only 1,000 boxes of 25 cigars the first year. The only details he would share about the new smoke were its wrapper (Ecuador Sumatra), its strength (stronger than Four Kicks) and the manufacturer, Perez-Carrillo.

Four Kicks is the only contract brand rolled at Perez-Carrillo's Tabacalera La Alianza factory, where Perez-Carrillo rolls his various **E.P. Carrillo** cigar brands. The factory makes cigars via the entubado bunching method, with Cuban-style heads.

For a video of Huber smoking and describing the cigar, see the editors' blogs at www.cigaraficionado.com