



Cigar Aficionado



The Story of the Cigar

The first modern observation of the cigar occurred with the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World. On October 28, 1492 Columbus noted in his log that the natives of San Salvador burned and inhaled the leaves of a local plant. Rodrigo de Xeres, a lieutenant on Columbus's expedition became the first European to smoke the Indian's form of a cigar. Rodrigo smoked on every subsequent day of the expedition.

The Indians in South and Central America did not smoke cigars as we know them today; they smoked tobacco wrapped in maize, palm or other native vegetation.

The Spanish created the cigar industry, and are given credit for creating the modern cigar.

The Origin of the word cigar comes from the native language of the ancient Mayans who called the cigar a "Ciq-Sigan" from which the Spanish word "Cigarro" is derived. The New English Dictionary of 1735 called the cigar a "seegar" which was later adapted into the modern word "cigar".

While cigars were once considered to be a status symbol of the elite, cigars have broken through to the mainstream and are becoming one of the most popular trends in the world.

Everyone -- from the President of the United States to university students seems to be puffing away...



Bolivar

Originally founded in Cuba, the Bolivar is a tribute to its Cuban heritage with a full-bodied mix of robust tobaccos from the Caribbean and Central America.

The Bolivar was re-blended and re-released in 2005 with a new and improved full-bodied and full-flavoured blend. Like its flavor, the brand itself has a very rich history. Bolivar cigars got their start in Cuba at the turn of the 20th century. Since day one on the market they have been highly sought after and recognised as a fine premium cigar.

Boliver Corona Junior



\$ 20

Boliver Corona



\$ 25

Cohiba

During his second voyage to the New World in 1496, Christopher Columbus revisited western Hispaniola, which is now known as the Dominican Republic. To his surprise, he discovered that the Taino Indians of Hispaniola were smoking leaves of cured tobacco. "Cohiba," they called it. Today, Cohiba remains as much a part of Dominican history as ever.

The Cohiba cigars that are crafted today in the Dominican Republic took years to develop. The dark, rich, wrapper leaf is grown in the sub-tropical West African climate of Cameroon. The supple and flavorful Jember binder is grown in Indonesia. To balance the richness of the wrapper, the smooth-smoking Piloto Cubano filler leaves are grown in the Dominican Republic.

The Selection

Cohiba Mini Cigarillos



\$ 8

Cohiba Corona Especiales



\$ 55

Fonseca

The Fonseca line features a range of sizes that are hand rolled in the Dominican Republic and offer a pleasant mild flavour and body. It is everything an aficionado has come to expect from a great Dominican cigar.

The Fonseca line is one of Manuel's most noteworthy accomplishments. This mild cigar is very well balanced and features a golden Connecticut shade wrapper that encases a combination of creamy Dominican fillers.

The Selection
Fonseca Delicias



\$ 15

Hoyo de Monterrey

There is an old wrought-iron gate overlooking a square in the Vuelta Abajo Village of San Juan y Martinez which bears the inscription "Hoyo de Monterrey: José Gener 1860". It leads to one of Cuba's most renowned "vegas finas", a plantation specializing in sun-grown tobaccos for binders and fillers.

Here, José Gener started his career as a leaf grower on prime land (a "hoyo" is a dip in a field much favored by farmers for reason of drainage) before founding the Hoyo de Monterrey brand in 1865. Hoyo's flagship, the Double Corona, has become a unit of exchange among cigar lovers with a value far exceeding precious metals and usually only transacted as a token of close friendship.

The Selection

Hoyo de Monterrey du Princes

Hoyo de Monterrey Churshill



\$ 25



\$ 45

H. Upmann

H. Upmann is one of the best known and oldest names in cigars. Founded in Cuba in 1844, this popular Dominican version is a best seller.

The H. Upmann gets its medium body from its Piloto Cubano, Cuban seed Dominican filler. These seeds have locked in the essence and history that have made Cuban cigars so famous, very appropriate for a cigar name with a rich history and foundation in Cuba. The cigar is finished with an Indonesian wrapper that gives the cigar a sweet finish on the palate. Taste a piece of cigar history with H. Upmann.

The Selection

H. Upmann Corona Major



\$ 18

H. Upmann Connoisseur No 1



\$ 35

Montecristo

Today nearly half of the cigars exported each year from Cuba bear the simple brown and white band of Montecristo, which makes it by far the world's most popular Havana.

Before Cohiba came on to the market in 1982, Montecristo was the most popular cigar brand for decades. Today, from the original four formats, the brand consists of about 13 different formats. Originally, the brand was in the ownership of the García and Menéndez families who founded the brand in 1935. After Fidel Castro's take over Cuba, they fled to the Canary Islands like so many others. The Montecristos of today are produced in the Jose Martín factory (formerly H. Upmann) as well as in the El Laquito factory, where Cohiba comes from.

The Selection

Montecristo Petit Tubos



\$ 29

Montecristo No 2



\$ 50

Partagas

The Partagas name is among the most famous and recognizable cigar names in the world. With a rich history more than 160 years old, the brand first got its start as a Cuban premium.

This famous brand, originated in 1845, which is soon after Jaime Partagas sailed from Spain to Cuba. Yet the greatest chapters of Partagas history were written by two other men, Ramón Cifuentes and the son who was named after him. Whether working together or alone, it was those two great cigar masters who made Partagas the leading Cuban cigar.

The Selection

Partagas Chicos



\$ 12

Partagas Corona Senior



\$ 25

Romeo Y Julieta

One of the very best known Havana brands, particularly popular in Britain, Romeo Y Julieta cigars come in a huge choice of over 40 shapes and sizes. Many of them come in aluminum tubes, and there are also a large number of machine-made sizes. Despite the vast range, which inevitably means that not all sizes can be trusted, there are some very good cigars produced under this brand, many of them among the best available in their size.

The brand's early success was directly due to the efforts of Rodríguez Fernández. "Pepin", as he was known, was originally manager of the Cabanas factory in Havana, but unhappy at its imminent takeover by American Tobacco, he resigned in 1903 to branch out on his own. Using his own savings, he bought a little-known factory which, since 1875, had made cigars called Romeo Y Julieta solely for the Cuban domestic market. Within two years, with his 1,400 workers, he had to move to a larger factory.

The Selection

Romeo Y Julieta Shot Churchill



\$ 46

Saint Luis Rey

Saint Luis Rey is a great value, featuring a medium to full bodied blend at an everyday low price. It is well balanced with a rich earthy aroma.

Handmade in Honduras, Saint Luis Rey is now distributed at the national level. Beautifully packaged in attractive semi-boite nature boxes, Saint Luis Rey cigars achieve their renowned full flavour and aroma through a unique blend of Honduran, Nicaraguan and Peruvian tobaccos, a Nicaraguan binder and a dark, rich Nicaraguan wrapper. These coveted cigars are moderately priced and available in several sizes.

The Selection

San Luis Rey Regios



\$ 40

Sancho Panza

A cigar of uncommon character and taste, worthy of its Cuban heritage, Sancho Panza combines Connecticut Shade and maduro wrappers carefully grown and selected by its makers with Cuban-seed filler tobaccos and a rich Connecticut Broadleaf binder.

Crafted by Estelo Padron, the revered Honduran Cigar Master, these cigars are superbly constructed, draw perfectly and provide exceptional flavor-befitting a cigar named for Sancho Panza, the memorable literary figure created by the great Spanish author, Miguel de Cervantes. Manservant to the famed Don Quixote de la Mancha, Sancho Panza personifies trustworthiness and reliability - attributes you will find in these cigars bearing his name.

The Selection

Sancho Panza Belicosos



\$ 12

Trinidad

Trinidad is a small batch cigar brand that made its way from Cuba to the US in late 1997. Since its appearance on the US market it has been considered a super premium cigar that is most enjoyed by aficionados with more sophisticated palates.

While the Dominican version of this cigar dates back to 1997, the Trinidad brand has roots in Cuban history that date back to 1969. Created after the revolution, the brand was commissioned by Fidel Castro to be used as official diplomatic gifts for the Cuban Government for foreign ambassadors. At the time even the bands were not allowed to leave the factory with each roller given the exact number of bands to create the necessary cigars. In 1997, the Cuban Government allowed this brand to sell on the international market and has since been a rare treat for aficionados all over the world.

Well made, with a tight pigtail cap, this intensely cedary cigar has some earth, toast and mint notes. Balanced, rich and tasty, with a medium to full body.

The Selection

Trinidad Coloniales



\$ 65

Juan Lopez

A small cigar with a nice cap and an oily wrapper. From a cedar cabinet, this is a fresh yet cedary cigar with a pepper and dried herb character. Full bodied, with lots of flavour. Long and interesting.

The Selection

Juan Lopez Seleccion No.1



\$ 35

Ramon Allones

There actually was a Ramon Allones, who developed this brand way back in 1837. Originally from Spain, Allones (owner of the La Eminencia factory) was reportedly the first to employ bright, lithographed labels on his boxes, to help set his brand apart. Prior to nationalization, this lighter-bodied brand was owned by Cifuentes, Pego y Cia., also the owners of Partagas.

This Doble Corona from Ramon Allones never seeks to fight or argue with the Lusitania, Punch or Hoyo de Monterrey cigars. It has a separate public, which is absolutely faithful to it. It is a great Habano, generous, complete, deep and with an unmistakable aroma and flavor. The king of its brand and one of the 20 best Habanos of the format range

The Selection

Ramon A- Small Club Coronas

Ramon A- Specially Selected

Ramon A- Gigantes



\$ 19



\$ 40



\$ 58

San Cristobal

The latest and probably the last of the new series of Havana brands launched since 1996 has been given the original name of the city of Havana when it was founded by settlers back in 1519 - San Cristóbal (St. Christopher) de La Habana. The brand boasts four sizes, each of which is named after one of the fronts that defended the city in its heyday, as the hub of the Spanish empire in Latin America. Two of the sizes, La Fuerza and El Morro, are entirely new and are unique to the San Cristóbal brand.

The Selection

San Cristobal - El Príncipe



\$ 23

Vegas Robaina

While the head on this cigar is well done, the draw is tight. The smoke is muddled, with woody, vegetal notes and a dull finish.

The Selection

Vegas Robaina - Don Alejandro



\$ 60

Davidoff

All Davidoff cigars maintain well defined standards of quality and excellence. The tobaccos that are used in the different blends have been cultivated in accordance with the most ancient traditions, in the richest soils and ideal climatic conditions of carefully selected fields. The choicest leaves from various harvest undergo four years of aging, which imparts to Davidoff cigars their rich aroma and consistently smooth taste. All Davidoff cigars are handmade in the Dominican Republic, where for over five centuries this art has been passed on from generation to generation

The Selection

Davidoff 2000 Tubos



\$ 60

Maldivian Dhun Gudugudaa (Sheesha)



Sheesha

\$ 15