

# Cigar Insider

INTERNET ONLY

MARCH 8, 2011 ■ VOL. 16, NO. 5 ■ FROM THE PUBLISHER OF CIGAR AFICIONADO MAGAZINE

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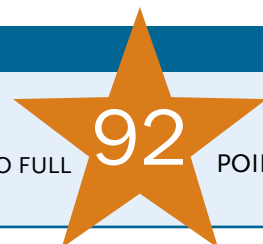
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## FEATURED CIGAR

### ALEC BRADLEY VICE PRESS 6T4

HONDURAS ■ PRICE: \$7.60 ■ BODY: MED. TO FULL

*For a full tasting, see page three.*



92 POINTS

## BEST CIGARS THIS ISSUE

Alec Bradley Vice Press 6T4	Honduras	92
Cohiba Esplendido	Cuba	91
Cohiba Robusto	Cuba	91
Cohiba Corona Especial	Cuba	90
Cohiba Lancero	Cuba	90
Nestor Miranda Art Deco Robusto Grande	Nicaragua	90



## CAIN AND CORVETTE

**STUDIO TOBAC**, the arm of Oliva Cigar Co. that's in charge of creating new NUb and Cain cigars, is going on tour with a host of non-production cigar sizes and a snazzy new Corvette decked out in the Studio Tobac, Cain and NUb logos. To find out how to get the cigars (and maybe even the car) turn to page five.

## CUBAN COHIBA VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

### FIDEL CASTRO'S PERSONAL SMOKE BECAME A LEGENDARY BRAND.

In 1966, a panetela-sized cigar was created for Cuban president Fidel Castro. The cigar was closely guarded and available only as a diplomatic gift. It was given the name Cohiba and became commercially available in 1982, though it was still extremely limited and significantly more expensive than any other regular-production Cuban brands on the market. The name is an ancient Taino indian word that translates to tobacco, or more specifically, the cigars rolled by the Taino natives. Habanos S.A. (Cuba's marketing and distribution arm for all its cigars) maintains that the cigars use the best tobacco in the land and are triple fermented for smoothness of flavor. For a vertical tasting of the line, see page two.

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**TASTING REPORT**
**COHIBA****VERTICAL BRAND TASTING****Country:** Cuba**Maker:** Various**Distributor:** Habanos S.A.**Filler:** Cuba**Binder:** Cuba**Wrapper:** Cuba**Box Date:** Various**ESPLENDIDO****91 POINTS** ■ 7" x 47 ■ £32.99 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

A gorgeous Churchill with a tawny wrapper and neat cap, though it burns crookedly. The primary flavors of leather and earth are complemented by coffee bean.

**Body:** Medium to Full**ROBUSTO****91 POINTS** ■ 4 7/8" x 50 ■ £20.63 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

Well constructed with an oily wrapper and neat, triple-seam cap. The tobacco has a heady character of coffee beans, a light sweetness and an earthy finish.

**Body:** Medium to Full**CORONA ESPECIAL****90 POINTS** ■ 6" x 38 ■ £18.34

Although the draw of this slim, pigtailed cigar is a bit firm, the cigar is toasty and nutty with touches of coffee and a mineral character on the finish.

**Body:** Medium**LANCERO****90 POINTS** ■ 7 1/2" x 38 ■ £22.80

A slow starter that eventually opens up to show oak notes, leathery flavors and a touch of vanilla sweetness. The draw and burn are even throughout.

**Body:** Medium**EXQUISITO****89 POINTS** ■ 5" x 33 ■ £10.86

This thin, petit cigar has a firm draw though imparts a woody smoke that shows savory leather notes and a floral aftertaste.

**Body:** Medium**PANETELA****88 POINTS** ■ 4 1/2" x 26 ■ £9.04

A well-made slim cigar that draws and burns evenly. The smoke is bright and easygoing with no traces of bitterness or acidity.

**Body:** Medium

**BRAND SUMMARY:** The Cohiba brand has secured itself as Cuba's prestige and glamour cigar, as it is the most expensive name in the entire Habanos S.A. portfolio. The brand was created in the 1960s, after the revolution, as a long panetela size for Fidel Castro (as the story goes) and subsequently became a cigar only attainable through diplomatic channels. Cohiba grew substantially once it was demystified and launched commercially in 1982, though still in a very limited capacity. Credited as the original size, the Lancero, or Laguito No. 1, was later joined by the Corona Especial (Laguito No. 2) and the Panetela size (Laguito No. 3). By the late 1980s, three new sizes were introduced: the Esplendido, the Robusto and the Exquisito. A Corona size was also released during the end of the 1980s, but it was discontinued after only a few years. According to Habanos, the tobacco for Cohiba is selected from the "five finest Vegas Finas de Primera in the San Juan y Martinez and San Luis zones of the Vuelta Abajo region" of Cuba. Habanos also maintains that two of Cohiba's filler leaves, the seco and ligero, undergo a third fermentation in barrels, which is supposed to add smoothness to the blend. Cohiba has three official lines: Linea Clasica, which we rated here; Linea 1492, also known as the Siglo Series; and the Behike BHK, which was launched last year. This was a superb vertical tasting, and in some cases outstanding, with the top scores going to the thicker sizes: the Esplendido, with a January 2010 box date, and the Robusto from June 2010. Both scored 91 points.

**Average Rating:** 89.7 points

**Cigar Insider** subscribers have access to our entire cigar ratings database. View it at [www.cigaraficionado.com](http://www.cigaraficionado.com).

**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.*

## NESTOR MIRANDA ART DECO

### NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

**Country:** Nicaragua

**Maker:** My Father Cigars Inc.

**Distributor:** Miami Cigar & Co.

**Filler:** Dom. Rep., Nicaragua

**Binder:** Dom. Rep., Nicaragua

**Wrapper:** Nicaragua

**Release Date:** November 2010

### ROBUSTO GRANDE

90 POINTS ■ 5 1/2" x 54 ■ \$7.50

Smooth and rich in appearance, this cigar starts out spicy and herbal warming to show a sweet licorice note before spice flavor intensifies.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### COFFEE BREAK

88 POINTS ■ 4 1/2" x 50 ■ \$6.65

Dark and toothy with a chocolate-like hue and neat cap. It draws and burns perfectly, imparting nutty, spicy notes that turn woody and earthy.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### 6 X 60

87 POINTS ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$8.60

This large, thick cigar has a veiny wrapper and smokes evenly. Some peanut notes are accompanied by a fruity sweetness, but the aftertaste is gummy.

**Body:** Medium

**BRAND SUMMARY:** The Nestor Miranda Art Deco was introduced at last year's IPCPR trade show and hit retail shelves a few months later. The boxes will probably stand out in any tobacco enthusiast's humidor as they are packaged in squarish tins reminiscent of vintage lunch boxes. The brand was named for the architectural tradition of Art Deco found throughout South Beach and Miami. The logo's streamlined, contoured design also reflects the Art Deco style. This brand makes use of a double binder and is made by Pepin Garcia at his My Father Cigars factory in Nicaragua. It did well in our vertical tasting, but the best smoke was the middle size—Robusto Grande, which scored 90 points.

**Average Rating:** 88.3 points

## ALEC BRADLEY VICE PRESS

### VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

**Country:** Honduras

**Maker:** Tabacos de Oriente San Marcos (Nestor Plasencia)

**Distributor:** Alec Bradley Cigars Inc.

**Filler:** Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico

**Binder:** Costa Rica

**Wrapper:** Nicaragua

**Release Date:** May 2009

### 6T4

92 POINTS ■ 5" x 64 ■ \$7.60 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

A thick and chunky box-pressed cigar that smokes well for such girth. The smoke is substantial, offering toasty, nutty flavors with touches of cocoa and salt.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### 6T

89 POINTS ■ 7" x 60 ■ \$8.50

Massive and box pressed, this dark torpedo draws evenly, showing sweetness on its first puffs. Coffee and cocoa notes follow before a woody finish.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### 6T2

89 POINTS ■ 6 1/2" x 62 ■ \$8.50

This thick, dark, box-pressed Churchill is cedary and toasty with traces of spice and nougat. It burns a bit unevenly but the draw remains easy.

**Body:** Medium

**BRAND SUMMARY:** The Alec Bradley Vice Press is a spinoff brand from an earlier Alec Bradley cigar line called The Maxx. Maxx contained one box-pressed size within its portfolio called the Vice, which was a play on words, according to brand owner Alan Rubin, (the vice of cigar smoking as an immoral habit, and the clamping apparatus in which the cigar is pressed). The size did so well commercially that Rubin decided to give it its own line. The Vice size was removed from the Maxx brand and the Vice Press was conceived as its own series, though the blend changed in order to accommodate the hefty ring gauges. The most impressive cigar was also the thickest—the 6T4. It scored 92 points.

**Average Rating:** 90.0 points

## 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

### NEW CUBAN CIGARS AND BLOCKBUSTER AUCTION AT HABANOS FESTIVAL

BY DAVID SAVONA AND GORDON MOTT

The thirteenth annual Festival del Habano concluded on February 25 with a gala dinner for some 1,000 people celebrating the **Montecristo** cigar brand. The main attraction of the night was the Montecristo No. 2 Gran Reserva, and the evening finished with an auction of massive humidors that raised \$1.1 million for Cuban charity.

Marvin R. Shanken, the editor and publisher of *Cigar Aficionado*, went up on stage at the gala to present the Habanos Man of the Year award in the communications category to Adriano Martínez Ruis, a former executive of Cubatabaco, who has written a number of books about Cuban cigars, and helped put together the *Encyclopedia of Post-Revolution Havana Cigars*. Shanken told the crowd he had made his first visit to Cuba 20 years ago, and it was during that trip that he decided to create *Cigar Aficionado* magazine. He recalled one of the highlights of his professional career when he interviewed Fidel Castro, and he told the crowd they were part of the magazine's worldwide audience of more than two million readers. He ended by saying how much he loved the crowd and the country. He left the stage to a rousing round of applause.

After he spoke, auctioneer Simon Chase began auctioning off a treasure trove of large-format humidors, each



decorated in the markings of one of Cuba's cigar brands. The humidors came loaded with Cuban cigars, many of them shapes that aren't part of the current Habanos portfolio. (A humidor commemorating the **H. Upmann** brand, for example, contained H. Upmann ultra-fat perfecto shapes known as Flying Pigs, a cigar size originally made long ago in the days before the Cuban Revolution.)

The biggest tab for the evening went for the **Cohiba** humidor (see photo, next page), which was purchased by Jose Maria Palacios Fernández of Spain's Altadis S.A.; he paid approximately \$620,000 for the lot. The humidor was brimming with cigars: there were 25 Cohiba Lanceros, 25 Cohiba Esplendidos, 25 Cohiba Maduro 5 Genios, 25 Cohiba Maduro 5 Magicos, 25 Cohiba Siglo VI, 30 Cohiba Behike BHK 56, 30 Cohiba Behike BHK 54, 30 Cohiba Behike BHK 52 (*Cigar Aficionado's* Cigar of the Year), 45 Cohiba 1966 Edición Limitada 2011, 25 Cohiba Coronas, 25 Cohiba Gran Coronas, 30 Cohiba Pirámides, 30 Cohiba Sublimes Extra and 30 Cohiba Robusto Especiales. The bidding for the humidor was spirited.

CUBA'S LIMITADAS			
Edición Limitada Releases, 2005–2011			
2005	H. Upmann Magnum 50 (92 points)	Montecristo D (90 points)	Romeo y Julieta Petit Pirámide (87)
2006	Montecristo Robusto (91 points)	Partagas Serie D No. 3 (89 points)	Cohiba Pirámide (88 points)
2007	Hoyo de Monterrey Regalos (92 points)	Trinidad Ingenios (89 points)	Romeo y Julieta Escudos (88 points)
2008	Partagas Serie D No. 5 (92 points)	Cuaba Pirámide (89 points)	Montecristo Sublimes (89 points)
2009	Romeo y Julieta Duke (90 points)	Bolivar Petit Belicoso (87 points)	H. Upmann Magnum 48 (87 points)
2010	Montecristo Grand Edmundo (91 points)	Partagas Serie D Especial (89 points)	Trinidad Short Robusto T (89 points)
2011	Cohiba 1966 (NYR)	Hoyo de Monterrey Short Hoyo Pirámide (NYR)	Ramon Allones Allones Extra (NYR)

Ratings shown are from *Cigar Aficionado* and *Cigar Insider*. If cigars were rated more than once, the highest score is shown.

Source: *Cigar Insider*



The Montecristo No. 2 Gran Reserva, the final cigar handed out at the Friday night gala, was the last in a long line of new cigars unveiled by Habanos during the week long festival. The new smokes included the **Partagas Serie E No. 2**, **Partagas Serie D No. 5** and the **H. Upmann Half Corona**. See the February 22 *Cigar Insider* for more details about those new smokes.

The Cubans also announce their lineup of Edición Limitadas every year at the Festival. This year's trio of Edición Limitadas consists of the **Cohiba 1966**, the **Hoyo de Monterrey Short Hoyo Pirámides**, and the **Ramon Allones Allones Extra**. All are new to the Edición Limitada lineup, which began in 2000. The Hoyo is a 5 3/8 inch by 46 ring gauge cigar, with the quizzical factory name of "forum." The Ramon Allones, a Francisco, measures 5 5/8 by 44. The Cohiba is the largest, both in ring gauge and in length, measuring 6 1/2 inches by 52 ring, a size the Cubans refer to as cañonazo extra.

The original cañonazo is the Cohiba Siglo VI, which is 5 7/8 inches long with the same 52 ring gauge. In this case, the extra refers to the longer length, and perhaps as well to the pigtail added to the Cohiba 1966, reminding some smokers of the ultra-popular Cohiba Behike line of cigars.

The Cohiba 1966 is meant to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the cigar brand, which originally was only available as a gift of the Cuban government. On a private tour of El Laguito, the mother factory in Havana for the Cohiba brand (not all Cohibas are made in El Laguito) a team from *Cigar Insider* saw trays of completed Cohiba 1966 cigars. The cigars made for the festival, which were passed out to some 500 attendees who went to the H. Upmann dinner on Wednesday night, were made at El Laguito, but the Cohiba 1966 will not likely be rolled here later in the year when the cigars go on sale. While the blend is intended to be identical, the cigars could be different.

The Cohiba was passed out to people who attended the H. Upmann dinner at the Habanos Festival in Cuba two weeks ago. The sample smoke exhibited heavy and bold flavor, with a very rich quality, and was considerably strong.

Edición Limitadas are made with wrapper leaves from higher primings, and the tobacco inside is aged for a minimum of two years prior to rolling. *Cigar Insider* has rated every Edición Limitada released since 2005 (see previous page) and will rate the 2011 editions when they arrive on the market.

For much more information about the Habanos Festival, including a video, read the blogs by Marvin R. Shanken, Gordon Mott and David Savona at [www.cigaraficionado.com](http://www.cigaraficionado.com). ■



## OLIVA CIGARS TAKES STUDIO TOBAC ON TOUR

BY ANDREW NAGY

Studio Tobac, the think tank behind the popular **NUB** and **Cain** cigar brands, is going on the road for a U.S. tour to pass out non-production cigars and give one smoker the chance to win a Corvette convertible.

The tour kicks off this Saturday at Tampa Humidor in Florida—home of one of two Oliva Cigar Lounges in the United States—and will continue through the year, with visits to tobacconists in 25 U.S. states confirmed so far, and a few more to be added in the near future. The tour will



conclude on November 12 in Ybor City to coincide with the 12th annual Ybor City Heritage & Cigar Festival.

Studio ambassador Bryan Scholle will drive the Special Edition 2011 Touring Corvette Convertible—valued at \$73,000—to each tour stop so eventgoers can get a look at the machine that Studio Tobac will be giving away on December 1.

The tour's main goal is to make the smoking public aware of Studio Tobac, which was formed by Oliva in 2007 to conceive innovative cigar products. Studio Tobac is made up of top members of Oliva's sales and marketing staff, referred to as the executive board, and is represented by a studio ambassador. It receives feedback from a group of independent cigar enthusiasts called the advisory board.

According to Scholle, the advisory board includes retailers and bloggers who have been nominated by the executive board to serve a one-year term. "We have a lot of sales reps around the world, but we can't be everywhere at once. Advisory board members will help us hear what customers say," he said.

Scholle and Studio Tobac will also be offering consumers who attend the events a special World Tour sampler pack of six non-production cigars. Inside the sampler packs will be one of each of the following cigars: Cain F Lancero

Tubo (7 by 38), Cain FF Torpedo (6 by 54), Cain Daytona Short Robusto (4 1/2 by 50), NUb Habano Perfecto (4 by 66), NUb San Andrés Maduro (4 1/2 by 64) and the ST/DS-001 Concept Cigar (6 by 54).

The guts of the Cain F Lancero, Scholle said, is the same all-Nicaraguan, near-total ligero blend found in the rest of the F line. The Cain FF Torpedo is stronger than the regular F line, said Scholle, and the Short Robusto is a non-production size. The two NUb cigars in the sampler also mark unique firsts available to consumers. The Habano Perfecto is the first NUb to be rolled into the distinctive shape, while the San Andrés Maduro is the first NUb maduro to use a non-Brazilian wrapper. It's also the longest NUb ever.

Scholle said that if the feedback on these NUb cigars is positive, they could become full production cigars.

According to Scholle, the ST/DS is an experimental, all-maduro blend cigar. "We're just going to leave that one as is and say that it's an all-maduro cigar," Scholle said.

Scholle also wants to use the event to promote sign-ups for Studio Tobac's general membership program. Although consumers won't be able to physically sign up at the events, they can do so online. ■

## HABANOS NAMES NEW CO-PRESIDENT

BY GORDON MOTT

Habanos S.A. has officially announced the appointment of a new co-president, Jorge Luis Fernández Maique, replacing Oscar Basulto Torres.

"I assume the co-presidency of Habanos S.A. after 2010 in which despite the difficulties in certain markets, and the legal restrictions on consumption in many countries, the revenues of Habanos S.A. have increased by two percent," Fernández Maique said in a press release. "We expect this growth can be maintained in 2011, and that the dynamism created by the introduction of new products by Habanos S.A. will contribute to the consolidation of this trend."



Fernández Maique has worked in the Cuban tobacco industry for more

than 20 years. He was the export director for Tobacco Leaf for eight years. And, he also served as the president of Coprova, which is the exclusive Habanos distributor in France. He is well known in international circles and will bring a global perspective to the Cuban cigar industry.

Maique will serve with Habanos S.A. co-president Buenaventura Jiménez Sánchez-Cañete.

Basulto Torres has been co-president of Habanos S.A. since the late 1990s. He will continue as the president of the Tabacuba Entrepreneurial Group, which oversees all aspects of the tobacco industry in Cuba, from the plantations and factories as well as Habanos S.A. ■

## GENERAL CIGAR CO. SORTING SUPERIOR CONNECTICUT CROP

BY DAVID SAVONA

General Cigar Co., maker of Macanudo, Partagas and various other premium cigars and a major grower of tobacco in the Connecticut River Valley, is sorting the 2010 crop of Connecticut shade tobacco in its cigar factory and tobacco processing facility located in Santiago, Dominican Republic. So far, the results are far better than average—so good that the company is certain to declare it a vintage year.

"Normal yield for grades one, two and three is 55 percent," said Jhonys Diaz, vice president of operations of General Cigar Dominicana, during a private tour of the company's operations in early February. "We are getting 82 percent. It will be a vintage." General operates much like the makers of Port in that it only declares vintages in high-quality years. Its last vintage was in 2007.

The 2010 crop is a far cry from the miserable crop year General and other growers had in Connecticut in 2009, when it got only 19 percent yield of those tobacco grades from the crop—and felt lucky. "Most of the farmers plowed their crops under," said General president Dan Carr.

The tobacco, although it looks good so far, still has a long, long way to go before it is ready to be rolled into cigars. There is the "winter sweat," more fermentation and aging before General will roll it around Macanudos. "Three years from now—at the minimum," said Diaz. ■



## XIKAR CUTTING CIGAR PRICES

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

Xikar Inc., known for its cigar accessories and Xikar HC cigar series of cigars, has announced that they will be comprehensively lowering prices on all three of their cigar lines: Xikar HC Habano Colorado; HC Criollo; and HC Connecticut shade.

According to Jerry Dear, Xikar's executive vice president of sales and marketing, the price reduction was in direct response to consumer feedback, a downturned economy and the recent proliferation of high-quality, wallet-friendly cigars throughout the market.

Xikar plans on implementing this strategy by bundling the cigars for a box refill program, reducing the number of in-store events, as well as cutting their own margin. The price reduction amounts to a decrease of approximately 18 percent in the retail price of all of Xikar's cigar brands.

The Xikar HC Series cigars are made in Nicaragua by Jesus Fuego at Nestor Plasencia's Segovia Cigar factory. ■



Washington has one of the nation's strictest smoking bans, outlawing smoking inside all public buildings, including restaurants, bars and even retail tobacconists. Both of the introduced measures, Senate Bill 5542 and House Bill 1683, would alleviate some of the pressure on cigar lovers. Each calls for creating a state licensing program, whereby businesses would apply to the State Liquor Control Board for endorsement as either a retail tobacconist or a cigar lounge. Businesses would receive a license, which could be renewed each year, and patrons could legally light up within these establishments.

No more than 100 licenses for cigar lounges would be issued (at a price of \$15,000 per year) and up to 500 businesses (each paying an annual fee of \$5,000) could receive a retail tobacco license. Five percent of the fees raised would be used for administrative costs, while 95 percent of the fees collected by the state would go to government programs. The House version directs that the funds accrued from the program are to go to a scholarship program for foster youth, while the Senate version dictates that the funds are to go towards health care.

The bill was the brainchild of the Cigar Association of Washington (CAW), a political organization that represents the interests of tobacco retailers and is comprised of small business owners, employees and customers. ■

## CUBAN CIGAR SALES INCREASE TWO PERCENT

Sales of Cuban cigars improved slightly in 2010. SHabanos S.A., the global distributor of Cuban cigars, reported revenues of \$368 million in 2010, up two percent from 2009. Habanos claims a marketshare outside the United States of 80 percent. ■

## A LICENSE TO SMOKE IN WASHINGTON STATE?

BY ANDREW NAGY

Two bills recently introduced by Washington State lawmakers would, if passed, grant cigar enthusiasts the right smoke inside to once again—if they are licensed.

## BIG SMOKE DATES ANNOUNCED

BY ANDREW NAGY

Tax Day, better known as April 15, will have a special meaning for cigar enthusiasts this year, for it's the first day tickets can be purchased to the 2011 Big Smoke cigar celebrations in Las Vegas and New York.

The 16th annual Las Vegas Big Smoke weekend is scheduled for October 28 to 30 and will be held at the Venetian Hotel & Casino for the sixth straight year. Expect two nights of luxe evening parties featuring tasty libations, world-class cuisine and, of course, cigarmakers passing out premium cigars.

Last year's Big Smoke New York was held at the Pier 92 events center, which is located directly on the Hudson River, for the first time, and the cigar party will return there for 2011. Hundreds of The Big Apple's most enthusiastic cigar smokers will gather at the pier on November 30. ■





## MY FATHER EXPANDING LIMITED EDITION LINE

BY DAVID SAVONA

My Father Cigars Inc. is going to release another batch of **My Father Limited Edition** cigars. The original batch of the cigars, which measure 6 1/2 by 52, scored 90 points and were made entirely by the father-and-son team of Jose “Pepin” Garcia and Jaime Garcia. Jaime handled the bunching, while Pepin did all the rolling.

The 2011 batch won’t be made by the Garcias, but instead will be constructed by the company’s 10 best rollers at the My Father Cigars factory in Nicaragua. This shipment will consist of 5,000 boxes, each containing a dozen cigars. Look for them in late April. ■

## CARRILLO CONNECTICUT

BY DAVID SAVONA

Ernesto Perez-Carrillo, best known for working with Cuban seed and other fuller flavored tobaccos, is looking to the cigar world’s mildest leaf, Connecticut shade, for his newest project.

“It should be out in the middle of April,” said Perez-Carrillo, the founder of E.P. Carrillo Cigar Co., maker of **E.P. Carrillo** cigars as well as the E.P. Carrillo Elencos Edición Limitada 2010, *Cigar Aficionado’s* No. 8 cigar of the year. The cigar will have four sizes.

Look for more information and a tasting of the new smokes in an upcoming issue of *Cigar Insider*. ■

## QUESADA CIGAR JUST FOR SPAIN

BY DAVID SAVONA

The Quesadas, makers of **Fonseca**, have created a version of their **Quesada** brand specifically for the Spanish market. **Quesada España** began shipping in February.

The brand has three sizes, each retailing for around 6 euros (about \$8.30) and the cigar is blended specifically for the Spanish market. “The Spanish prefer a lighter wrapper and a Cuban style taste,” said Raquel Quesada. The ring gauges are also thinner than the U.S. versions—there is no 60—ranging from 42 to 52. ■

### CIGAR AFICIONADO “BIG SMOKE”

October 28—30

LAS VEGAS \* THE VENETIAN

November 30

NEW YORK CITY PIER 92

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE AT  
CIGARAFICIONADO.COM ON APRIL 15

### IN THE NEXT CIGAR INSIDER

New cigars from Ernesto Padilla, plus breaking news from around the cigar world, along with ratings on hot new cigars. Read about it first in *Cigar Insider*.

👉 Your Next CIGAR INSIDER Arrives on Tuesday, Mar. 22.

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