

Cigar Insider

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FEATURED CIGAR

PADRÓN FAMILY RESERVE
85 YEARS NATURAL

NICARAGUA ■ PRICE: \$20.00 ■ BODY: MEDIUM

For a full tasting, see page three.



93 POINTS

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WEATHER V. TOBACCO

BAD WEATHER IS THE BANE OF TOBACCO FARMERS. A freak hailstorm in northern Nicaragua on April 21 destroyed a field of leaves (see photo) meant to go around Padrón cigars. It's the latest chapter in the never-ending battle between the weather and the men who farm tobacco. See page six.



NIGHT TO REMEMBER RAISES OVER \$1 MILLION

CIGAR AFICIONADO'S NIGHT TO REMEMBER CHARITY DINNER on April 17—the 18th thrown—raised over \$1 million for prostate cancer research. The event featured a gathering of luminaries from the worlds of radio, television, sports, business, wine, spirits and cigars. The funds were raised by a live auction of gorgeous lots containing vintage wines, special-edition cigars, single-malt Scotches, rare humidors, vacations and other treasures, as well as an anonymous donation of \$500,000. It was held in New York City at the illustrious Four Seasons restaurant for another unforgettable evening of fine dining, cigars and charity. For complete details of the event, turn to page four.

TASTING REPORT

GURKHA ROYAL CHALLENGE

NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: Fabrica de Tabacos San Rafael S. A.

Distributor: Gurkha Cigar Group Inc.

Filler: Nicaragua, Dom. Rep.

Binder: Honduras

Wrapper: Ecuador

Release Date: August 2011

ROBUSTO

87 POINTS ■ 5" x 52 ■ \$5.98

Covered in a light, veiny wrapper, this robusto has a mild woody, start, but toasty notes soon follow, leading to a pencil-lead finish.

Body: Mild to Medium

TORO

87 POINTS ■ 6" x 50 ■ \$6.24

A blond cigar with an oily wrapper and an even draw. The first puffs of dry wood and toast take on a slightly nutty flavor and smoky aftertaste.

Body: Mild to Medium

TORPEDO

87 POINTS ■ 6 1/2" x 53 ■ \$7.00

This pale pyramid has a dead-even burn and slightly firm draw that offers a notably creamy smoke. Mild pepper and vanilla notes come through as well.

Body: Mild to Medium

XO

87 POINTS ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$8.50

Hefty, with a lightly hued and veiny wrapper. The cigar's steady draw delivers a light, toasty and simple smoke with touches of creamy coffee.

Body: Mild to Medium

CHURCHILL

86 POINTS ■ 7" x 52 ■ \$7.50

Mild and bready in character, this Churchill takes on a cedary note, despite its firm draw and uneven burn. The cigar forms a flaky ash as it burns.

Body: Mild to Medium

BRAND SUMMARY: The Gurkha Royal Challenge was first presented to the market at last summer's IPCPR trade show. Like many Gurkha products, its packaging and presentation is quite eye catching. Each box of 20 sports a sleek barrel-dome lid, black leather-like binding and a heavy golden buckle. The bands themselves are also quite decorative and heavily gilded. These cigars are made at the Fabrica de Tabacos San Rafael S. A., which is owned by Fidel Olivas. In this tasting, the Gurkha Royal Challenge turned in a very consistent, mild to medium-bodied performance with four out of the five cigars scoring 87 points.

Average Rating: 86.8 points

BERGER & ARGENTI ENTUBAR CRV

NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: GGM Exports

Distributor: Berger & Argenti

Filler: Nicaragua, Dom. Rep.

Binder: Nicaragua

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

Release Date: August 2011

CORONA MACHO

89 POINTS ■ 4 5/8" x 48 ■ \$8.99

Each puff of this little robusto is cedary, floral and mild. A cylinder of filler tobacco sticks out of the foot. The cigar's uneven burn soon corrects itself.

Body: Mild

DOUBLE CORONA

89 POINTS ■ 7 5/8" x 54 ■ \$10.99

Strong and spicy for a cigar with such a light wrapper. Cinnamon sweetness comes through as the spice settles down. The burn is even and the draw full.

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.*

ROBUSTO

89 POINTS ■ 5 3/8" x 54 ■ \$9.99

A core of filler tobacco extends past the foot of this well-rolled cigar. The draw is even and full, delivering a woody smoke with a touch of spice and floral finish.

Body: Mild to Medium

TORPEDO

89 POINTS ■ 6 7/8" x 56 ■ \$11.99

A very well made pyramid with a pointy tip and a plug of filler tobacco protruding from the foot. First puffs are floral and sweet with touches of cedar and citrus.

Body: Medium

GRAN TORO

86 POINTS ■ 6 5/8" x 64 ■ \$12.99

This huge log of a cigar burns a bit unevenly. A peppery beginning mellows to show dry cedar and floral flavors, but the smoke leaves the palate dry.

Body: Mild to Medium

BRAND SUMMARY: Berger & Argenti's Entubar CRV is constructed using the entubar method, whereby filler tobacco is rolled rather than folded into a bunch. Each round, well-made cigar has a small segment of filler tobacco protruding 3/8 of an inch from the cigar's foot to accentuate the rolling method. CRV stands for Connecticut River Valley, the growing area of Connecticut where the wrapper was cultivated. Connecticut seed wrappers from Connecticut (as opposed to Ecuador) are becoming rarer and rarer in the world of premium cigars. One of the major issues is cost, but brand owner Michael Argenti found this particular wrapper to be most suitable for the flavors he had in mind. CRV was introduced at last year's IPCPR trade show and shipped to tobacconists shortly afterward.

The cigars in this test were all well made with handsome wrappers, lush, substantial draws and fairly even combustion. The Entubar CRV cigars were also quite flavorful and robust for a Connecticut wrapped cigar. The line had a very consistent performance with four out of the five sizes scoring 89 points.

Average Rating: 88.4 points

PADRÓN FAMILY RESERVE

NEW SIZE

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: Tabacos Cubanica S.A.

Distributor: Padrón Cigars Inc.

Filler: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Release Date: October 2011

85 YEARS NATURAL

93 POINTS ■ 5 1/4" x 50 ■ \$20.00 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

A neatly box-pressed cigar whose complex smoke starts with an earthy, herbal character. Flavors become both sweet and savory with black cherry and black truffle.

Body: Medium

PUNCH

NEW SIZE

Country: Cuba

Maker: N/A

Distributor: Habanos S. A. via Intertabak AG

Filler: Cuba

Binder: Cuba

Wrapper: Cuba

Box Date: December 2011

CLÁSICOS EXCLUSIVO SUIZA

90 POINTS ■ 7 1/4" x 50 ■ 25.00 Sw. Fr.

Topped with a blunt belicoso tip, this large cigar has a light wrapper, full draw and tasty array of toast, coffee bean and honey flavor.

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

NIGHT TO REMEMBER DINNER RAISES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION

BY JACK BETTRIDGE

Michael Milken, founder and Chairman of the Prostate Cancer Foundation, predicted a cure to the disease by 2016 at the 18th Night to Remember on April 17. Then the crowd of about 200, led by Milken as well as Marvin R. Shanken, the editor and publisher of *Cigar Aficionado*, did its best to make it come true, raising more than \$1 million for research. An anonymous donation of \$500,000 got the fundraising off to a brilliant start.

The event opened with a cocktail party featuring Moët & Chandon Brut Champagne Impérial NV and a selection of donated cigars including Aging Room, Arturo Fuente Don Carlos, A. Turrent Puro Corojo, Casa Magna Colorado, Davidoff, Diamond Crown Julius Caesar, E.P. Carrillo Maduro, Gurkha Cellar Reserve, Hoyo de Monterrey Reposado en Cedros, La Flor Dominicana El Museo, La Palina El Diario, Montecristo New York Edition, My Father Le Bijou 1922, Nat Sherman Timeless Collection, Padilla Artemis and Studio Tobac, Oliva Serie V Maduro Especial, Padrón 1964 Anniversary Series, Partagas 1845, Rocky Patel Decade and Fifteenth Anniversary, Romeo y Julieta Cabinet Selection, Tatuaje La Vérité Vintage 2009 and Zino Platinum Crown Series. A Who's Who of the cigar industry was there, including Frank and Matt Arcella of the Davidoff shops in Las Vegas; Dan Carr, Benji Menendez, Michael Giannini, Victoria McKee, and Ricky Rodriguez of General Cigar Co.; Javier Estades, Janelle Rosenfeld and Gene Tipton of Altadis; Janny Garcia of My Father Cigars; Tony Gomez of La Flor Dominicana; Pete Johnson of Tatuaje; Robert, Sathya and Meera Levin of Ashton; Les Mann of Colibri; Eric Newman of J.C. Newman; Rafael Nodal of Habana Cuba Cigar Co.; Ernesto Perez-Carrillo and Ernesto Perez-Carrillo III from EPC Cigar Co.; Jorge Padrón of Padrón Cigars; Bill Paley of La Palina; William and Larry Sherman and Michael Herklots of Nat Sherman; Wayne Suarez of Arturo Fuente; Stan Shuster of the Grand Havana Room and Alejandro Turrent of Te-Amo.

The event began in earnest with a lavish dinner that started with M. Chapoutier Crozes-Hermitage Les Meysonnier 2010. Shanken introduced Milken, who briefed the crowd on the recent developments against prostate cancer. In a tradition of the evening, Shanken offered five bottles from his own cellar that were wrapped in paper bags, reminding the crowd that buyers were expected to open the bottles and share them with their tables.



The Night to Remember got off to a great start when hosts Marvin R. Shanken (left) and Michael Milken unveiled an anonymous donation for \$500,000.

The first bottle, revealed as a Château Margaux 2000, which rated 100 points in *Wine Spectator*, went for \$18,000 to broadcaster Rush Limbaugh. The next, a Château Latour 1990, which was the magazine's wine of the year and was also a 100-point wine, went for \$14,000 to the beverage and gaming magnate Tom Celani. Another 100-point wine, a double magnum of Château Mouton Rothschild 1989 fetched \$22,000, selling to Robert Levin, president of Ashton Distributors Inc. Levin dedicated the bottle to the late Manny Ferrero. A Château Haut-Brion 1990 brought \$25,000 and went to Pierluigi Tolaini, who owns a Canadian trucking company. Shanken unwrapped the last bottle, a 1927 Taylor Vintage Port that sold for \$22,000 to Michael Gelband of Millennium Management, and announced it as "the vintage of the century."

In a change from protocol the 14 lots described in the event's catalog were all auctioned before dinner began. The first lot—two limited-edition humidors each containing 100 cigars from the **Padrón Millennium Series** from the year 2000 donated by Padrón Cigars—was won by the attorney Doug Wood for \$41,000. An all-inclusive vacation with premium airfare to Casa de Campo to play two rounds on Pete Dye's renowned Teeth of the Dog course went to David Nolan of Millennium Management for \$20,000. The lot also included a handcrafted humidor with the first production of 100 cigars of **Montecristo New York Connoisseur Edition** and was provided courtesy of Javier Estades of Altadis U.S.A. Inc. Milken himself took the third, a collection of the world's finest wines donated by Chris Adams, CEO of Sherry-Lehmann, for \$28,000. The wines all rated between 95 and 100 points in *Wine Spectator*, including three with perfect ratings. A bottle of 44-year-old Gold Bowmore single-malt Scotch whisky, donated by Gerry Ruvo, CEO of Campari, made up the next lot and was also bought by Nolan, this time for \$10,000. NetJets provided a five-hour flight in a Cessna Citation Sovereign as the next lot, which was snapped up by David Trone, a founder of Total Wine & More. Rocky Patel Premium Cigars offered a day with its founder and namesake as the sixth lot, which also



Rafael Nodal of Habana Cuba Cigar Co. (far left) and Ricky Rodriguez, Victoria McKee and Michael Giannini of General Cigar Co. enjoy the cocktail hour.

included 266 cigars and a round of golf at Old Corkscrew in Naples, Florida, with three suites at La Playa Beach and Golf Resort. It was taken by Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, for \$12,000. Lot seven, donated by Larry Schwartz, president of Diageo North America, was a special tasting with a Master of Whisky and 20 guests at the winner's home to sample the Johnnie Walker portfolio of the Blue, Gold, Green, Black and Red Labels. The chairman and CEO of the Charmer Sunbelt Group Charlie Merinoff took the lot for \$18,000.

Another golf package, this one a five-day stay for two at The Breakers in Palm Beach with unlimited golf at its two courses, plus a selection of 288 cigars from Ashton, was donated by David Burke, vice president of the resort, and Levin of Ashton. Levin took home his own prize for \$18,000.

Lot nine was an evening of opulence at New York's Club Macanudo for 100 guests, including wines, spirits, hors d'oeuvres and 340 cigars. Dan Carr, president of General Cigar Co., made the donation, and it was bought by Wood for \$20,000. Jim Clerkin, president of Moët Hennessy provided lot ten: five days of golf and single-malt Scotch with Glenmorangie. Gelband and three of his guests will

tour the Highlands distillery and play two rounds of golf. The package, which went for \$32,000, also includes six bottles of Glenmorangie, including a 25-year-old. The chance to jump the waiting list for the Els for Autism Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament was offered up in the 11th lot. The winner—Milken—and his guests will play in the tournament and attend the pairings dinner with such golf standouts as Ernie Els, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus. The money raised—\$25,000—will go to the autism charity.

Exclusive membership at the Grand Havana Room in New York and Beverly Hills, courtesy of its president Stan Shuster, was the basis for the next lot, which included a dinner with wines donated by Shanken and his wife, Hazel, and a box of **Fuente Fuente OpusX** cigars. William Sherman of Nat Sherman, won it with a bid of \$22,000. Levin took the next lot for \$23,000 and with it the chance to create his own 30-year-old Glenfiddich



(Seated, left to right) Chris Adams, Pierluigi Tolaini and Wayne Suarez. (Standing left to right) Ernesto Perez-Carrillo Jr. and Ernesto Perez-Carrillo III, Stan Shuster, Lee Einsidler and Gordon Mott of **Cigar Aficionado**.

single-malt Scotch. The package, donated by Simon Hunt, managing director of William Grant & Sons, includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the dunnage warehouses with the malt master as well as samplings from select barrels and a four-day stay in the Torrent House on the grounds. The last lot, a collection of 453 Fuente cigars went to Celani for \$23,000. It includes 11 boxes of select Fuente Fuente OpusX cigars. Fuente provided the package.

The speakers included basketball star John Salley, a perennial favorite, Limbaugh, Alan Rubin, owner of Alec Bradley Cigars, Gordon Mott, the executive editor of **Cigar Aficionado**, Giuliani, and Chuck Wagner of Caymus Wines, who provided the red for the evening, Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Special Selection 2007.

As the meal concluded, waiters passed out the dinner cigars, contained in Humidipak bags. They were the top three cigars of the year: (in order from first to third) **Alec Bradley Prensado Churchill**, **La Aroma de Cuba Mi Amor Belicoso** and **Illusione Epernay Le Taureau**. There was also a lighter and pocket humididor provided by Xikar. ■



Former NBA star John Salley amused the crowd with a few choice remarks.

THOUSANDS OF FAKE COHIBAS CONFISCATED IN MIAMI

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

More than 10,000 counterfeit **Cohiba** cigars were seized last week by agents from the Miami Office of the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco after they raided a slew of retail stores in Miami's Calle Ocho, a tourist destination neighborhood of Little Havana.

General Cigar Co.—the exclusive owner of the Cohiba trademark in the United States—said the seizures were the result of an investigation conducted by law enforcement, in cooperation with General.

According to General, the estimated retail value of the seizure exceeds \$200,000.

“Protecting cigar consumers from counterfeiters and maintaining the integrity of our products is a top priority for the company,” said General’s president Dan Carr. “We



are very grateful for the efforts of the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco, and will continue to cooperate with law enforcement as the investigation continues.”

The fake cigars featured bands with the classic Cuban yellow-and-black Cohiba design, though the words “Republica Dominicana” appeared under the Cohiba logo rather than “Habana, Cuba.”

General devotes significant resources to protecting the frequently counterfeited Cohiba brand. Last year, a separate investigation led to the confiscation of more than 3,000 fake Cohibas seized from seven tobacco retail stores located in Key West, Florida.

Law enforcement officials are expected to file criminal charges for violations of Florida State law relating to counterfeit goods. ■

PETITION TO PROTECT PREMIUM CIGARS FROM FDA REACHES SIGNATURE THRESHOLD

BY ANDREW NAGY

The Cigar Rights of America and the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers Association had just 30 days to collect 25,000 signatures in order for the White House to review their petition to protect premium cigars from government regulation.

Turns out the pro-cigar groups only needed 15.

In a testament to the solidarity of the cigar industry, 25,389 cigar enthusiasts from all 50 states answered the CRA and IPCPR’s calls for help and signed a formal petition that asks President Obama to prevent the Food and Drug Administration from regulating premium cigars. The petition was submitted to the White House’s “We the People” website on April 11.

According to the “We the People” website, now that the petition has passed the signature threshold, members of the White House staff will review the petition and channel it to the proper policy offices for a response.

“We are thrilled with the outcome that in 15 days, the CRA and IPCPR were able to galvanize 25,000 cigar enthusiasts,” said Glynn Loope, executive director of the CRA.

By yesterday, the bill had exceeded 26,000 signatures.

American cigar lovers can still add their names to the petition by [clicking here](#). ■

STORMS AND TOBACCO—A FRAGILE COMBINATION

BY DAVID SAVONA

A hailstorm in northern Nicaragua turned a crop of tobacco destined to become Padrón cigars into a tattered mess. It’s the latest weather event to plague tobacco growers throughout the long history of making cigars.

The storm struck on April 21 in Jalapa, Nicaragua. The field of tobacco was supposed to become wrappers on **Padrón 1964 Anniversary Series** and other cigars. But the hailstorm peppered the plants with holes, rendering them useless for wrapper.

“It destroyed practically the entire crop of what was left,” said Jorge Padrón, president of the Miami-based company, which makes all of its cigars in Nicaragua. Some of the tobacco had recently been planted, and was small, while many of the plants had been partially primed of their leaves.

The hail put holes in the plants that were in the fields, making some look as if they had been blasted by a shotgun at far range.

Leaves with this type of damage cannot be used as wrapper or binder, and there is so much damage that it's unlikely that much of it can even be used as filler tobacco. "It looks like 90 percent of it is gone," said Padrón. "There is very little that will be salvageable from this crop."

The damage was only to the tobacco in the fields. Leaves that had already been primed and brought into the curing barns were unaffected.

The loss will not have an immediate impact on Padrón cigar production. "Our crops are still years away from being used," said Padrón.

Padrón said that he and his 86-year-old father, a man who has been working around tobacco nearly his entire life, had never seen this type of damage in a tobacco field. "This has never happened to us before," said Padrón. "It just further emphasizes how fragile this whole manufacturing process is."

Weather has a long history of causing problems in the cigar industry, and the damage has ranged from annoying to catastrophic. Just last month, Aganorsa S.A. lost several of its oldest curing barns in Jalapa to a windstorm that wrecked some 200 bales of tobacco. (See the March 20 *Cigar Insider* for more details.)

In 2008, back-to-back hurricanes caused some \$5 billion in damage to Cuba, damaging or destroying thousands of tobacco curing barns and storage facilities, along with hundreds of tons of tobacco.

Hurricane Mitch, one of the worst Atlantic hurricanes ever, killed nearly 20,000 people in Central America in 1998, and washed away entire tobacco fields, rendering them forever useless.

The same year, Hurricane Georges struck the Dominican Republic, and had a particularly strong impact in the Bonao region, where Tabacalera A. Fuente grows its tobacco. The storm took down 17 of the company's curing barns, causing the company to temporarily suspend creation of its **Fuente Fuente OpusX** cigars, resulting in the creation of the **Arturo Fuente Añejo** brand (which is essentially an OpusX made with a Connecticut broadleaf wrapper.)

El Niño, the weather phenomenon that has global impacts on weather systems, caused near endless rains in Ecuador in 1996, ruining several crops. Growers would try to replant, only to have the relentless rains swamp the young seedlings. The rains were nearly constant for 17 months.

Perhaps the most dramatic impact weather has ever had on a cigar brand was from Hurricane Gilbert, a savage 1988 hurricane that wiped the **Royal Jamaica** brand from the island of its birth. The storm destroyed 35 tobacco barns full of leaf, tore to pieces a 50-year-old cigar factory in Kingston and more than 1.5 million cigars. The brand was moved to the Dominican Republic. ■

ROCKY PATEL DECADE EDICIÓN LIMITADA AVAILABLE NOW

BY G. CLAY WHITTAKER

Rocky Patel Premium Cigars has released the **Rocky Patel 2012 Decade Edición Limitada**: a limited production Decade with a broadleaf wrapper and bolder blend.

The blend on the 2012 release is the same as in past years: a Pennsylvanian maduro broadleaf wrapper around a bunch of Nicaraguan filler and binder tobacco—with one special change. "The exception," said creative director Anthony Jimenez, "is that we added one additional leaf of ligero, giving the cigar a bigger, bolder flavor."

The Decade Edición Limitada comes in three sizes: Robusto (5 1/2 by 52), Toro (6 by 52) and Torpedo (6 1/4 by 52). The cigars have suggested retail prices of \$10.60, \$11.60 and \$12.10, respectively.

The three-size limited-production line was originally released in March 2010, making this the third year of Edición Limitada Decades for Rocky Patel Cigars. The Torpedo scored 90 points in the December 2010 issue of *Cigar Aficionado* magazine.

Rocky Patel Cigars produced just 500 boxes of each size. They come in boxes of 20 and are made at the El Paraiso factory in Honduras, so the entire production across all three sizes was just 30,000 cigars. The line shipped at the end of April and is in retail stores now. ■



AGING ROOM BRAND EXPANDED

BY DAVID SAVONA

Rafael Nodal, owner of **Agging Room** cigars, is adding a pair of new varieties to the boutique brand, which was named one of *Cigar Aficionado's* Top 25 cigars of 2011.

"We're releasing two more Agging Rooms," said Nodal. The Agging Room Cuatro is a box-pressed cigar with an Indonesian wrapper. The cigars are already being rolled at Tabacalera La Palma in Tamboril, Dominican Republic, and will be on display this summer at the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers trade show.

Nodal says the Indonesian wrapper was found in Europe, at a machine-made cigar factory that went out of business.

The tobacco has some age on it—he says it’s from 2003—and there’s enough for a limited run of smokes, perhaps 300,000 to 400,000 cigars.

The name of the cigar, which is box pressed, might change to Aging Room Sumatra Cuatro. It will come in five sizes, all of them box pressed. “We’re really looking forward to that,” said Nodal. “We started the production about a month ago and just got the first batch here.”

The price will be perhaps 50 cents a cigar more than Aging Room, or around \$8 per cigar.

The second new Aging Room will be called Aging Room Haváo, a cigar made with Dominican tobaccos wrapped in a Connecticut-seed wrapper. That particular blend will be longer in the making.

The Aging Room Small Batch M356 Presto, a \$7.25 short robusto, is *Cigar Aficionado’s* No. 16 Cigar of the Year. It scored 92 points on our 100 point scale. ■



CUBAN QUINTERO BRAND GETS NEW SIZE

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

The handmade, short filler Cuban brand **Quintero** now has a thick new size: Favoritos.

The heftiest cigar in the brand’s line-up, Favoritos is Quintero’s fifth size and measures 4 1/2 inches long by 50 ring gauge, a unique vitola referred to as Concha No. 2 in Cuban cigar factories.

According to the official press release from Cuban cigar distributor Habanos S.A., the Favoritos is made with tobacco cultivated from the Vuelta Abajo and Semi Vuelta zones of Cuba’s Pinar del Río growing region.

Quintero is one of the few Cuban brands that was not created in Havana. Rather, it started in Cienfuegos, a city on Cuba’s southern coast known as the “Pearl of the South.”

Billed as a medium-strength smoke, Quintero Favoritos will come in five packs and are scheduled to hit worldwide retail in a few weeks. ■

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CIGAR AFICIONADO’S “BIG SMOKE” 2012 SCHEDULE

November 9-11

LAS VEGAS • THE MIRAGE

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