

Cigar Insider

INTERNET ONLY

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FEATURED CIGAR

FLOR DE LAS ANTILLAS TORO

NICARAGUA ■ PRICE: \$6.90 ■ BODY: MED. TO FULL

For a full tasting, see page two.

92

POINTS

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CANDELA'S COMEBACK?

GREEN CIGARS were once very popular, but fell out of vogue in the 1970s in favor of tan-hued Connecticut-shade wrappers. Now, some companies have put these verdant vitolas back into production. Boutique brands like Illusione and La Flor Dominicana have established a following for candelas, showing that they're not just for St. Patrick's Day anymore. For the story, see page four.



A TALE OF TWO NEW YORKS

NEW YORK STATE BACKED DOWN ON ITS PARK SMOKING BAN

on May 30, only 50 days after the law went into effect. State lawmakers suspended the ban in the face of opposition from NYC C.L.A.S.H. (Citizens Lobbying Against Smoker Harrassment), and shelved the law until full hearings on the ban can be held. As the change was announced, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg held his own hearing to remind smokers that New York City parks remain smoke-free under a separate law. Only days later, Bloomberg added another target to his ban list, announcing he would create a law prohibiting the sale of large, sugary beverages in the city.

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TASTING REPORT

FLOR DE LAS ANTILLAS

NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: My Father Cigars S.A.

Distributor: My Father Cigars Inc.

Filler: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Release Date: May 2012

TORO

92 POINTS ■ 6" x 52 ■ \$6.90 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

Tawny and pressed with distinct shoulders and a contoured head. Each chewy puff imparts a concentrated interplay of white pepper, nutmeg and lavender flavor.

Body: Medium to Full

BELICOSO

90 POINTS ■ 5 1/2" x 52 ■ \$7.20

Nearly flawless in appearance, this pressed belicoso is full of toasty, oaky notes that frame a nutty core. Nutmeg and marzipan resonate on the finish.

Body: Medium to Full

ROBUSTO

90 POINTS ■ 5" x 50 ■ \$6.60

Neatly box-pressed with an oily wrapper and full draw. An intense beginning of leather, spice and nuts becomes more subdued as the cigar is smoked.

Body: Medium to Full

TORO GORDO

90 POINTS ■ 6 1/2" x 56 ■ \$8.70

A big and box-pressed toro that offers a profoundly woody and toasty character. Pepper and walnut flavors precede a sweet, cherry-like aftertaste.

Body: Medium to Full

BRAND SUMMARY: The Garcia family of My Father Cigars regards their Flor de Las Antillas line as a tribute to their Cuban heritage. The family resurrected an old Cuban brand and recirculated its vintage art for this box-pressed cigar, which was supposed to debut in April but instead saw a May release. The sun-grown wrapper envelops a variety of Cuban seed tobaccos to impressive effect—all of the cigars scored 90 points or higher.

Average Rating: 90.5 points

ILLUSIONE ULTRA

NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Honduras

Maker: Fabrica de Tabacos Raíces Cubanas S. de R.L.

Distributor: Illusione Cigars

Filler: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Release Date: April 2012

OP NO. 4

90 POINTS ■ 4 3/4" x 48 ■ \$9.95

Perfectly pressed with a near-black wrapper, this hearty robusto is full of leather, wood and molasses flavor. Touches of black cherry and coconut also emerge.

Body: Medium to Full

OP NO. 1

89 POINTS ■ 6 3/4" x 56 ■ \$12.00

A big, blocky cigar with a dark wrapper that's silky to the touch. It requires some relights, and this strong, malty-tasting smoke carries hints of charred cedar.

Body: Full

MK

88 POINTS ■ 5 1/8" x 42 ■ \$7.95

This woody tasting smoke draws and burns evenly with cherry undertones throughout. Intermittent notes of caramel and coconut could use more finesse.

Body: Medium to Full

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.*

OP NO. 9

88 POINTS ■ 5 1/2" x 56 ■ \$11.50

There's a notably firm draw and blistery burn to this dark, chunky cigar. Initial cedar flavors are fortified with copious red and black pepper notes. The finish is oily.

Body: Full

BRAND SUMMARY: The Illusione Ultra line is billed by brand owner Dion Giolito as being the most full-bodied cigar of his entire portfolio. It was first introduced at last year's IPCPR trade show and slowly trickled into cigar shops one size at a time. The brand started with the mk, a small corona and the only cigar of the line that is not box pressed. The rest are large, blocky cigars covered in oily, dark wrappers. A few sizes were indeed full bodied, but the OP No. 4 was the most balanced, scoring 90 points.

Average Rating: 88.8 points

JUAN LOPEZ

VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Cuba

Maker: N/A

Distributor: Habanos S.A.

Filler: Cuba

Binder: Cuba

Wrapper: Cuba

Box Dates: Various

SELECCIÓN NO. 2

92 POINTS ■ 4 7/8" x 50 ■ 10.50 EURO (ITALY)

HUMIDOR SELECTION

A meaty, toasty smoke backed by leather and cappuccino notes. Complex red wine intonations complement the primary flavors and resonate on the long finish.

Body: Medium

Box Date: February 2011

PETIT CORONA

91 POINTS ■ 5 1/8" x 42 ■ 7.50 EURO (ITALY)

HUMIDOR SELECTION

Though the draw is slightly firm, bold impressions of ground coffee saturate the palate. Cedar and leather flavors follow before a mellow, almond-like finish.

Body: Medium

Box Date: October 2008

SELECCIÓN NO. 1

90 POINTS ■ 5 5/8" x 46 ■ 10.50 EURO (ITALY)

Predominantly woody in character with touches of tea notes, almonds and orange peel flavors. Some mineral-ity comes through on the finish.

Body: Medium

Box Date: August 2010

BRAND SUMMARY: The venerable though small Cuban Juan Lopez cigar brand has been whittled down to only three sizes. Within the last six years, Juan Lopez has lost two of its vitolas: the Corona and the Panetela Superba are no longer made. The band design has also undergone some changes. While the golden crown and laurels of the logo are now more clearly embossed, the name of Juan Lopez's pre-Revolution company—"C. Del Peso y Cia."—is no longer referenced on the band. While Juan Lopez cigars will make special appearances each year in the form of unique, limited-production, regional-edition smokes, this trio is all that is left of the once large brand. Shrinking as it may be, the core brand is still more than respectable. We sampled each of the three remaining sizes, and none scored lower than 90 points. Interestingly enough, the cigar that scored the highest also had the least age: The Selección No. 2. Its box was dated February 2011, with a BME factory code.

Average Rating: 91.0 points

FOUR KICKS

NEW SIZE

Country: Dominican Republic

Maker: Tabacalera La Alianza S.A.

Distributor: Crowned Heads, LLC

Filler: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Release Date: May 2012

SELECCIÓN NO. 5

90 POINTS ■ 6 1/2" x 44 ■ \$7.70

Rolled in a strikingly uniform wrapper, this solid, slender cigar draws perfectly, offering an elegant palate of gingerbread spice and nuts balanced by ground coffee.

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

PREMIUM CIGARS GO GREEN. LITERALLY

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

American Market Selection. Double Claro. Candela. They're all the same names for that shamrock shade of green cigars, and they seem to be making a small comeback in the world of premium smokes.

Once very popular among aficionados, these distinctly green cigars lost their popularity in the 1970s in favor of the browner Connecticut Shade wrappers. Since then, candela cigars have been associated with primarily machine-made brands such as Garcia y Vega and Grenadier. But one cigar-maker was nostalgic for these verdant vitolas and in 2010 he started including them in his brand's portfolio. "I've always had a fondness for candela," said Dion Giolito, owner of the **Illusione** cigar brand, and proprietor of Fumare smokeshop in Reno, Nevada.

"I remember back in the day, these old cats would come into the shop with the horse race papers under their arms and grab handfuls of **Nat Cicco's** Churchill Rejects, or **Bering** candelas. Then they'd shuffle back downtown to bet on the ponies. I liked their style and wanted to bring back that particular memory through a candela of my own. I really didn't care if anyone liked them or not."

Giolito made his first candela in a lancero size, the hl, and the filler and binder consisted of the normal Illusione tobaccos with a green candela wrapper from Nicaragua.

"The Illusione blend really holds up to the candela," explains Giolito. "It's not overpowered by the grassy characteristics of it. You either like it or hate it."

Enough people liked it. At first, Giolito only had 50 boxes of the candela lancero produced and sent it to a few retailers, but the curiously green smoke gained popularity, prompting Giolito to make three more candelas: a Churchill, robusto and belicoso.

Other brands soon followed. In 2011, **Viaje** released a limited candela cigar under its **White Label Project**.

"I wanted to do something festive for St. Patrick's Day so candela was an obvious choice," said **Viaje** brand owner Andre Farkas. "It was experimental when we first released it, but I let the fans decide what stays and what goes. Everyone loved it, so it is now released each year in March."

This year, **Viaje** put out only 3,750 green robustos. Like the Illusiones, the **Viaje** candelas also consist solely of Nicaraguan tobacco.

With candela slowly making its way into the world of premium cigars, two more companies took notice and released candelas of their own this year: **La Flor Dominicana** and **Rocky Patel**.

At first, Patel approached the trend cautiously, releasing its candela line in a limited capacity the week after St. Patrick's Day. Its initial, single-size production run was just 20,000 Toros. But the reception was so great that Patel has now made **The Edge Candela** regular-production.

"The response has been tremendous to our candela," said Nish Patel, executive vice president of **Rocky Patel Premium Cigars Inc.** "It's the same blend as our regular Edge cigars, only with the green wrapper, and I think it lets smokers appreciate the blend in a new, different way."

The Edge Candela is made in Honduras at the El Paraiso factory and features a green Habano leaf from Honduras. It comes in stained green wooden boxes of 20 and is only available as a 6-inch-by-52-ring Toro.

The new candela **La Flor Dominicana Double Claro** was released early this year and is a full-production brand that features a gleaming green wrapper from Ecuador and comes in three sizes: a Churchill, robusto and corona. According to brand owner **Litto Gomez**, the project was spearheaded by his son Tony.

Not every company has been seeing a high demand for its candela lines. **General Cigar Co.**, which produces a green version of its **Macanudo** brand called **Jade**, reports sales as being "steady." The Macanudo Jade uses a candela wrapper grown in Honduras, and comes in four sizes.

Camacho Cigars sees a spike in demand for its candelas around St. Patrick's Day, but otherwise, they have not seen any notable increase.

"Camacho has been making candela cigars since the early 1970s," said Dylan Austin, Camacho's head of marketing. "At one point, **Julio Eiroa** [the former owner of Camacho, who still grows tobacco for the brand] was the world's largest producer of candela wrapper."

Camacho has candela versions of both the **Camacho Corojo** and **Baccarat** lines. Despite the green wrappers, both brands retain their respective original blends.

Tabacalera A. Fuente has long had candelas, and offers **Arturo Fuente** Lonsdales, Churchills and 8-5-8 Flor Finas in the familiar green color.

The grass-green color of a candela wrapper is achieved by a 72-hour heat-curing process that fixes the chlorophyll content of the wrapper while it's still in the barn. The walls of the barn are sealed, the barn is then loaded with freshly harvested tobacco, and the vents at the bottom of the barn are opened, encouraging air to flow out of the roof vent, which is always open. After the leaf and stems have been thoroughly cured and the chlorophyll locked in, the green leaf then gets rehumidified. The intense heat curing eliminates the need for fermentation and aging, cutting months and even years off the typical process. ■



CHRISTIAN EIROA RETURNS TO CIGAR BUSINESS

BY DAVID SAVONA

Christian Eiroa, the man behind **Camacho** Cigars for many years, has returned to the cigar business with the formation of CLE Cigar Co. The 39-year-old's long-term plans include having several cigar brands made in various countries, including one rolled in his hometown of Miami and a large-production brand made in Nicaragua.

CLE stands for Eiroa's initials (his middle name is Luis) and the first cigar to come from his new venture will bear the CLE name. A boutique brand, CLE will be rolled in a familiar spot for Eiroa, the Tabacos Ranchos Jamastran factory in Honduras where Camacho cigars are made. (Eiroa owned the factory with his father, Julio, before selling **Camacho** to the Davidoff group in 2008.)

CLE will come in two varieties, **CLE Cuarenta**, made with Habano-seed wrapper, and **CLE Corojo**, made with Corojo wrapper. The Cuarenta is named in honor of Eiroa's upcoming 40th birthday, which takes place in July.

The CLE blend is intended to be medium to full in body, and Eiroa said it would reflect his changing tastes in cigars.

"The way I blend, and the way I taste cigars has changed a lot. Before I was so focused on Corojo, now I want to taste and try different areas," said Eiroa. "I can also experiment with sizes. I've always smoked 50 by 5s. Now I've fallen in love with 46 by 5 1/2. So those sizes will be in our product line."

Eiroa's cigars will be vintage dated. "Tobacco changes every year, just like wine changes every year. I'm going to use the same varieties, but the cigars could vary, because it's a different batch."

The dates, said Eiroa, during a long interview with *Cigar Insider*, will refer to the date of production, not necessarily the year of the harvest. He also said that he intended to have dates on the cigar bands, as well as the boxes.

Eiroa will be using a variety of tobaccos for his new cigars. He said he was already buying tobacco from his father, who grows in the Jamastran Valley of Honduras; from Henke Kelner, the maker of **Davidoff** cigars, who grows in the Dominican Republic; and from ASP Enterprises Inc., a major grower in Ecuador and Nicaragua.

While Eiroa said his venture has the blessing of Davidoff, he said they do not have a stake in his company.

Rolling of CLE began about a month ago, and the plan is to have the cigars on the market in July for his 40th birthday. ■



PADILLA RESTRUCTURES ENTIRE BRAND PORTFOLIO

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

Boutique brand maker Ernesto Padilla made a pivotal decision last November—he stopped production of his signature lines. The **Padilla Miami**, **1932**, **Dominus** and **Artemis**, cigars that put his company on the map, have all been cancelled. Padilla discontinued them quietly and has since been restructuring his entire company portfolio.

Today, Padilla is looking for a fresh start, and he's preparing to introduce three new cigar lines this summer at the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers trade show in Orlando, Florida.

"The other cigars were becoming too discounted in the catalogs," Padilla explained in an interview about his decision. "I wanted to be a true boutique brand and this wasn't the direction for Padilla to go in."

The four brands had last been rolled in Honduras at the Fabrica de Tabacos Raices Cubanas S. de R.L. factory, and made only with tobacco grown by agricultural conglomerate Aganorsa. But Padilla's change of direction led him to two new factories.



El Titan de Bronze, a quaint Miami operation, will be producing the new **Padilla Miami 8&11 Maduro** and the **Padilla Invictus**.

"There are only 6 rollers at Titan de Bronze," said Padilla. "All my cigars are rolled entubado style with triple caps." The small factory already makes the **Padilla 8&11 Miami** robusto, a Nicaraguan puro that recently scored 91 points in *Cigar Aficionado*. The new Miami 8&11 Maduro will feature a Mexican San Andrés wrapper around Nicaraguan binder and filler tobacco procured from Aganorsa. Invictus, however, will consist of tobacco grown by the Oliva family and showcase an Ecuadoran Habano wrapper. Retailing in the \$12 to \$14 range, both lines will come in three sizes, all with 54 ring gauges: a 5 by 54 robusto, a 6 by 54 toro and a 6 1/2 by 54 torpedo, but production is very limited. Each brand is only slated for 400 boxes of 10, totaling 800 boxes between the Miami 8&11 Maduro and Invictus.

For a larger scale, regular-production line, Padilla has turned to Tabacalera Oliva S.A. (makers of **Oliva Serie V** and **Serie G**) to roll **Padilla Reserva**, a Nicaraguan cigar that will come in both Ecuadoran Habano and Maduro varieties. After his positive experience with the Padilla Studio Tobac Figurado, which is also made by Oliva and scored 93 points in *Cigar Aficionado*, Padilla enlisted Oliva for the new Reserva line. It is made with tobacco from Oliva's small farms and will be available in four sizes: 5 by 50, 6 by 50, a 6 1/4 by 52 torpedo and 6 by 60.

In a further development, Oliva is set to distribute the Padilla brand in Europe. The **Padilla Premier Cru** is a three-size line made exclusively for the European market and will consist of Nicaraguan tobacco and an Ecuadoran Habano seed wrapper. Distribution is scheduled to start in September.

Loyal fans of the defunct Padilla lines should not completely despair. Raices Cubanas will occasionally make the Miami and 1932 lines in a limited-edition capacity.

"People still like those brands," said Padilla, "so Raices will make them around once a year or so."

Furthermore, Raices is still producing Padilla's catalog cigars. The **Cazadores** brand, a line that was made in Honduras at Tabacalera Aguilar, has also been discontinued. The future of the **Padilla La Terrazza** brand is undecided. ■

C.A.O. EXTENDS LAST STICK STANDING

BY DAVID SAVONA

Cigar smokers have been given an extra month to submit their choices for the C.A.O. Last Stick Standing promotion. General Cigar Co., owner of the C.A.O. brand, originally designed the contest to run from April 1 to the end of June. Today the company extended the summer deadline to July 31.

Retail cigar shops have three-pack tins called C.A.O. Last Stick Standing, available for free with the purchase of any six C.A.O. cigars. Every tin contains three cigars measuring 5 1/2 by 54, named C, A and O. Each is made with a different blend.

The plan is for cigar smokers to test-smoke the trio and decide which they like best, choosing the final blend for a public release. Rating a cigar gives you the chance to win a box of the final blend before it goes on sale to the general public. One winner will receive a trip for two to the C.A.O. factory in Nicaragua. ■

DOMINICAN FOUNDATION HONORS CARLOS FUENTE JR.

BY ANDREW NAGY

Carlos Fuente Jr. is known for making some of the world's best cigars, but the Dominican Foundation recently honored the famous cigarmaker for another reason: his charitable work.

The foundation, a nonprofit organization created to promote awareness of the Dominican Republic's poverty, bestowed Fuente with its 2012 Dominican Distinguished Humanitarian Award at a gala event at the Park Café in New York City's Time Warner Building on May 24. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres kicked off the evening, with a presentation of the award afterwards.



For many attendees, the night continued with an after-dinner cigar celebration in Manhattan's Grand Havana room. A special **Fuente Fuente OpusX ForbiddenX Scorpio** was passed out to guests, in addition to cake and Champagne.

In 2001, the Fuente and J.C. Newman cigar families created the Cigar Family Charitable Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create meaningful change to the communities of the Dominican Republic through education, health care and the development of eco-friendly business ventures.

Cigar Family Charitable Foundation's major project is a 23-acre community complex located in the Bonao tobacco-growing region of the Dominican Republic. Well over 5,000 families enjoy the complex's amenities, which include a school, medical and dental clinic, sports and recreation facilities, and an organic farm and fishery. In addition, the United Nations has praised the complex as a model of corporate social responsibility. ■

ALEC BRADLEY AMERICAN GOES SUN GROWN

BY G. CLAY WHITTAKER

Alec Bradley Cigars is releasing a new, bolder version of its **American Classic** brand and it will feature a darker wrapper and more spice.

The **Alec Bradley American Sun Grown Blend** will have a Nicaraguan core of Estelí and Condega filler tobaccos and a Jalapa binder, the same as found on the **Alec Bradley American Classic**. But instead of a Honduran Connecticut seed wrapper, American Sun Grown will wear a sun-grown Habano leaf from the Jalapa region of Nicaragua, making them Nicaraguan puros. The Sun Grown cigars are being rolled at Plasencia Cigars in Estelí, Nicaragua.

“It has more body and more spice than the American Classic,” said Sam Phillips, vice president of marketing for Alec Bradley, which is based in Dania, Florida. “It has a darker element to it. It’s a nice little spice bomb.”

Phillips said that the American Sun Grown Blend would come in the same six sizes as the American Classic, and at the same price points: Corona (5 1/2 by 42 ring, \$4.20), Robusto (5 by 50, \$4.75), Torpedo (6 1/8 by 52, \$5.25), Churchill (7 by 48, \$5.25), Toro (6 by 50, \$5.00) and Gordo (6 by 60, \$5.75).

The low price point, which is characteristic of the American Classic line released about a year ago, is part of a plan to offer more of the Alec Bradley experience at affordable retail costs. “We just felt like there was a lack in the market at this price point of a spicy cigar with this amount of body,” said Phillips.

American Sun Grown Blend will be sold in 20-count boxes and will ship later this month, hitting shelves by the end of June. Look for a review in an upcoming *Cigar Insider*. ■

LANCEROS COMING FOR 7-20-4

BY G. CLAY WHITTAKER

Kurt Kendall is releasing lancero sizes in both his 7-20-4 and 7-20-4 1874 Series lines this summer. But while the size may not be among the most popular, he believes they have the best flavor for his blends.

“From a retailer standpoint, lanceros aren’t the best sellers,” says Kendall, who began producing 7-20-4 in 2009, “But it delivers a lot of flavor. That narrow ring gauge really captures all the flavors of the tobacco.”

Kendall, who prefers narrower ring gauges, says that he blends his cigars at slim sizes first, and then works

toward the larger rings that are currently popular in the market.

“It definitely changes the flavor profile,” says Kendall. “60 rings—I don’t even really enjoy smoking them. I’ll smoke them every once in a while to check the blend. Generally I smoke narrower cigars. I like to put things at around a 42 ring gauge. Even at my events, I’ll pass out the narrower rings.”

Kendall says that both lanceros (which will be rolled at the Tabacos de Oriente factory owned by the Plasencias in Honduras) will be regular-production cigars and not limited offerings. Both will be capped with a pigtail and rolled in the entubado method.

The 7-20-4 lancero, a blend of Nicaraguan, Mexican, Honduran, Columbian, Brazilian and Costa Rican tobaccos, and the 7-20-4 1874 Series lancero, made of Nicaraguan and Indonesian leaf, will both be sold in boxes of 20 and retail for approximately \$8. The 7-20-4 lancero will hit shelves around the end of June, and the 1874 Series lancero will be available at the IPCPR trade show in August. ■

PARK SMOKING BAN CANCELLED IN NEW YORK STATE

BY ANDREW NAGY

New York cigar smokers received some good news last week when the State Parks Department announced it is suspending its own ban on smoking in parks, a mere 50 days after it was instituted.

The surprising move comes after NYC C.L.A.S.H. (Citizens Lobbying Against Smoker Harrassment) sent a letter to the Parks Department on May 1 that challenged the constitutionality of the smoking ban.

The letter pointed out that the New York State Legislature has rejected more than 19 bills that called for a state park smoking ban. It stated that the Parks Department exceeded its authority when it passed the smoking ban and superseded the Legislature’s will.

“These bans were imposed by bureaucratic fiat, not legislated law,” said Audrey Silk, founder of C.L.A.S.H., “and on that basis alone, they’re unconstitutional.”

The smoking ban affected 178 parks such as Bear Mountain State Park, Bethpage and even six parks in New York City, including Riverbank State Park in Manhattan.

No-smoking signs will remain in the state parks; the State Parks Department has stated it will enter a full rulemaking process, including public hearings, as it seeks a way to reintroduce the ban. Silk said C.L.A.S.H. intends to fight to remove the signs. For now, it’s legal to smoke in a New York State-run park or beach.

As a reminder, Mayor Michael Bloomberg told reporters on May 29 that New York City's park smoking ban will remain in effect, despite what the state does. (A day later, he announced plans to ban the sale of large sugary drinks in restaurants, delis and other venues.)

Last year, the New York City Council passed a controversial outdoor smoking ban that made it illegal to smoke in its 1,700 parks and 14 miles of city beaches. While the ban was supposed to be self-enforced, according to the city Department of Parks and Recreation, 212 tickets have been issued by city park officers since the ban took effect last May. (This number does not include tickets handed out by New York police officers.) A ticket for smoking in a New York City park starts at \$50, with repeat offenders subject to higher fines.

While public parks in New York City remain smoke-free, some private parks (including Samuel Paley Park located at 3 East 53rd Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues) are out of the city's jurisdiction, and are unaffected by the city law. ■

STRICTER INDIANAPOLIS BAN GOES INTO EFFECT

BY ANDREW NAGY

A new, stricter Indianapolis smoking ban began on Friday, and this time there will be no mayor stepping in to stop it.

The new ban expands the city's 2005 anti-smoking law to cover bars and taverns, bowling alleys and most other workplaces while exempting tobacco shops, hookah bars and private clubs.

In February, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard vetoed an earlier version of the law because it included banning smoking in private clubs. Lawmakers at the time were hastily trying to pass a smoking ordinance in anticipation of the city hosting the Super Bowl.

Under the new rules, business owners are expected to police their respective establishments to ensure patrons are not violating the new ban. Complaints will be handled by either the Indianapolis Department of Code Enforcement or the Marion County Health Department. Firefighters and police officers can also enforce the new rules.

In addition, a statewide smoking ban that was recently passed will be going into effect on July 1. The statewide ban is less strict than the Indianapolis city ban, however, as it exempts bars, casinos, retail tobacco shops and private clubs. ■

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.

TICKETS GO ON SALE MARCH 15

November 29

NEW YORK CITY • PIER 92

TICKETS GO ON SALE APRIL 15

Visit CigarAficionado.com

IN THE NEXT CIGAR INSIDER

An exclusive sneak preview of the top-rated cigars from the August *Cigar Aficionado*, weeks before they are available to the general public. You'll read it first in *Cigar Insider*.

👉 Your Next CIGAR INSIDER Arrives on Tuesday, June 19.

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