

Cigar Insider

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FEATURED CIGAR

**VEGAS ROBAINA
UNICO**

CUBA ■ PRICE: £18.81 ■ BODY: MED. TO FULL

For a full tasting, see page two.

94

POINTS

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

CIGAR AFICIONADO TURNS 20 and the October issue offers an in-depth retrospective of the industry, the magazine and how both have evolved over the last two decades. Read stories and vignettes from the most influential people in the business and find out how **Cigar Aficionado** gave a stagnant industry a voice and an identity.



UNIQUE CIGARS ARE COMING YOUR WAY

OUR COVERAGE OF THE NEW IPCPR CIGARS CONTINUES

Two industry veterans—Dr. Martinez Cuenca and José Blanco—develop Cuenca y Blanco (far left), which is made by Joya de Nicaragua and distributed by Drew Estate. Gurkha's East India Trading Co. releases its second brand: Red Witch (second from left). General Cigar lets you smoke the band—literally—with the La Gloria Cubana Trunk Show (center), whose homogenized tobacco band is stamped with a vegetable oil dye that lets you smoke it if you want. Fausto, (second from right) Tatuaje's strongest cigar, gets a stout 4 1/2 inch robusto called FT114. EPC Cigar's Inch (far right) is an inch thick. Coverage starts on page five.

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TASTING REPORT: EXCLUSIVE OCTOBER 2012 CIGAR AFICIONADO PREVIEWS



94

RING GAUGE: 52
LENGTH: 6 1/8"
FILLER: Cuba
BINDER: Cuba
WRAPPER: Cuba

VEGAS ROBAINA UNICO

CUBA

There's a lot of complexity to this torpedo, starting with a salty, earthy set of flavors that take on toasty notes, roasted coffee bean flavors and a profound blast of dried orange peel.

Box Date: August 2011

Price: £18.81 (U.K.)

Body: Medium to Full



93

RING GAUGE: 50
LENGTH: 5"
FILLER: Honduras
BINDER: Honduras
WRAPPER: Nicaragua

CUBA ALIADOS CAPA HABANO CABINET RESERVE ROBUSTO

HONDURAS

A dark robusto whose toasty undertones are a flavor base for bold chocolate notes, red wine intonations and a meaty finish. The cigar draws and burns evenly.

Price: \$6.00

Body: Medium to Full



93

RING GAUGE: 60
LENGTH: 6 1/4"
FILLER: Nicaragua
BINDER: Nicaragua
WRAPPER: Nicaragua

PADRÓN 7000

NICARAGUA

Each puff of this big, fat cigar layers the palate with flavors ranging from toast and coffee bean to more refined espresso notes and a touch of caramel.

Price: \$7.50

Body: Medium to Full



92

RING GAUGE: 52
LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: Nicaragua
BINDER: Nicaragua
WRAPPER: Nicaragua

FLOR DE LAS ANTILLAS TORO

NICARAGUA

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

Price: \$6.90

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.*

TASTING REPORT: EXCLUSIVE OCTOBER 2012 CIGAR AFICIONADO PREVIEWS



92

RING GAUGE: 52
LENGTH: 5 1/2"
FILLER: Dom. Rep., Nicaragua
BINDER: Peru
WRAPPER: Peru

LA LIBERTAD BOX-PRESSED TORPEDO **DOM. REP.**
 A sandy-colored, box-pressed torpedo whose buttery smoke offers a flavorful balance of vanilla, toast and cedar before a floral finish.
Price: \$6.50 **Body:** Medium



92

RING GAUGE: 52
LENGTH: 6 1/8"
FILLER: Dom. Rep.
BINDER: Dom. Rep.
WRAPPER: Ecuador

ROMEO BY ROMEO Y JULIETA PIRAMIDE **DOM. REP.**
 Earthy and complex with a lush draw that layers the palate with clear impressions of cocoa bean, hazelnut and black pepper.
Price: \$7.50 **Body:** Medium to Full



92

RING GAUGE: 52
LENGTH: 6 1/2"
FILLER: Nicaragua
BINDER: Nicaragua
WRAPPER: Ecuador

TATUAJE COJONU 2012 SUMATRA **NICARAGUA**
 Gorgeously pressed with a neat, triple-seam cap. The smoke on this large cigar is chewy and thick, layering rich notes of molasses and hickory onto the palate.
Price: \$13.00 **Body:** Medium to Full



91

RING GAUGE: 50
LENGTH: 5 1/4"
FILLER: Nicaragua
BINDER: Dom. Rep.
WRAPPER: Brazil

E.P. CARRILLO ELENOS SERIES DON RUBINO **DOM. REP.**
 A dark cigar that is firm to the touch yet draws evenly. It's rich and bold with a foundation of coffee bean and savory leather flavor. Sweet nuttiness emerges on the finish.
Price: \$9.50 **Body:** 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.*

TASTING REPORT

ALEC BRADLEY AMERICAN SUN GROWN BLEND

NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: Plasencia Cigars

Distributor: Alec Bradley Cigar Co.

Filler: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Release Date: June 2012

CORONA

89 POINTS ■ 5 1/2" x 42 ■ \$4.20 ■ BEST BUY

Dark and oily with a firm but workable draw. Sweet cedar, apple and caramel notes are underscored by a strong, charry character. Flavorful though rustic.

Body: Medium to Full

TORPEDO

89 POINTS ■ 6 1/8" x 52 ■ \$5.25 ■ BEST BUY

A predominantly woody-tasting torpedo with touches of toast and spice, though an unmistakable charriness emerges on the palate as the cigar is smoked.

Body: Medium to Full

GORDO

88 POINTS ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$5.75 ■ BEST BUY

This large, dark cigar draws well, but burns unevenly. Rich and nutty to start, flavors take on a more roasted wood quality and leave a wheaty aftertaste.

Body: Medium to Full

TORO

88 POINTS ■ 6" x 50 ■ \$5.00 ■ BEST BUY

Near black in appearance, this toro smokes evenly, offering sweet tobacco flavor and a gin-like, juniper note, though the cigar becomes earthy with a charcoal finish.

Body: Medium to Full

ROBUSTO

87 POINTS ■ 5" x 50 ■ \$4.75 ■ BEST BUY

A black cigar with a firm draw and even burn. It's muddled at first, heavy with minerals, earth and licorice, but takes on metallic notes and a black pepper finish.

Body: Full

BRAND SUMMARY: The Alec Bradley American Classic debuted around Memorial Day 2011 and was billed as a tribute to the time when many premium cigars were made in the U.S. The flavor profile was mild to medium bodied and, in brand-owner Alan Rubin's view, consistent with the style of cigars he believed Americans were smoking before the Cuban embargo. Last June, Alec Bradley released an amped up version of the American Classic: The Alec Bradley American Sun Grown Blend, which owes its bolstered strength to a sun-grown Habano-seed wrapper from Jalapa. The filler and binder are virtually identical to those of the original blend, though the wrapper's influence is undeniable. Most every cigar in this tasting fell in the medium- to full-bodied range with one size registering as an all-out, full-bodied smoke. There was also a notable charry character that recurred in varying degrees with most of the sizes. The best of this wallet-friendly brand were the Corona and Torpedo, which retail for under \$6.

Average Rating: 88.2 points

LA PALINA COLLECTION GOLDIE

NEW RELEASE

Country: U.S.A.

Maker: El Titan de Bronze

Distributor: La Palina Cigars

Filler: Dom. Rep., Nicaragua

Binder: Ecuador

Wrapper: Ecuador

Release Date: July 2012

LAGUITO NO. 2

89 POINTS ■ 6" x 38 ■ \$15.00

Woody and floral notes elegantly converge with each puff of this pigtailed panetela, which draws and burns evenly. A touch of peppery spice also comes through.

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

SPECIAL REPORT: THE NEW CIGARS OF 2012, PART TWO

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA, ANDREW NAGY, G. CLAY WHITTAKER
AND DAVID SAVONA

Our coverage of the IPCPR trade show continues as the *Cigar Insider* team further reports on the new releases, brand extensions and limited-edition cigars that will be heading to retail shops and tobacconists from now until the end of the year.

DREW ESTATE

CUENCA Y BLANCO

Made by: Joya de Nicaragua S.A., Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Dominican Republic

Filler: Nicaragua, Peru

Price: \$7.45–\$10.45

Details: Two industry veterans, Dr. Martinez Cuenca and José Blanco, team up to produce a cigar that commemorates their friendship. The result is what Cuenca calls a unique blend, using Ecuadoran Habano wrapper, Dominican piloto criollo cubano for the binder, and a mixture of Nicaraguan leaf and Peruvian tobacco from Tarapoto to make this cigar. They're releasing it in five sizes: Corona Real, 5 1/2 by 46; Robusto Deluxe, 5 1/4 by 50; Lonsdale Club, 6 1/2 by 44; Toro Supremo, 6 by 54; and Torpedo Especial, 6 1/4 by 52.

What makes it special: The first collaboration between the two veterans, and a unique blend unlike anything Joya de Nicaragua has ever produced.

HERRERA ESTELI

Made by: La Gran Fabrica Drew Estate, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Honduras

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$8.40–\$8.80

Details: Willy Herrera has blended for some of the industry's big names, but now he's putting his own name on a cigar—Herrera Estelí, a five-size line with a medium-to-full body. An Ecuador Habano wrapper surrounds a criollo Honduran binder and Nicaraguan corajo fillers. The sizes are Toro Especial, 6 1/4 by 54; Robusto Extra, 4 7/8 by 46; Lonsdale, 6 by 44; Piramide Fino, 6 by 52; and a corona size that measures 5 1/4 by 42.

What makes it special: It's the first Cuban-style smoke from Drew Estate, and the first cigar from Willy Herrera's new label.

MY UZI WEIGHS A TON BAIT FISH, +11

Made by: Joya de Nicaragua S.A., Nicaragua

Wrapper: Mexico

Binder: Ecuador

Filler: Brazil, Nicaragua

Price: \$6.35, \$7.70

Details: The thick-ring line from Drew Estate is getting two new sizes this year, and neither one is a 60-ring giant like its predecessors: Bait Fish, at 4 by 44, and +11, at 5 1/2 by 52. Bait Fish was a limited-edition smoke released last year but is now in regular production.

What makes it special: The small ring gauges are the first diversions from the line's 60-ring starting point.



DURFORT HOLDINGS S.A.

DEBONAIRE

Made by: Corporación Cigar Export, Dominican Republic

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Binder: Dom. Rep.

Filler: Dom. Rep., Nicaragua

Price: \$12.00–\$20.00

Details: Brand owner Philip Zanghi, who has worked on the machine-made end of the cigar business, now has a premium line called Debonair, which is cross-branded with his rum of the same name. He'd been toiling with premium tobacco and experimenting with different fermentation processes until he found a conditioning method that produced specific flavor profiles in the tobacco. Zanghi developed Debonair at Augusto Reyes's Corporación Cigar Export factory, of which Durfort Holdings has an interest. The brand comes in three sizes: Robusto, 5 1/4 by 50, Belicoso 6 1/8 by 52, and Salomon, 7 1/2 by 57.

Also: A three-size line called Executive Branch features a trio of premium cigars made in a conical *trompeta* shape. They retail in the \$6.00 to \$16.00 range.

EPC CIGAR CO.

E. P. CARRILLO INCH

Made by: Tabacalera La Alianza S.A., Dominican Republic

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua, Dom. Rep.

Price: \$7.57–\$10.00

Details: The newest smoke from EPC Cigar Co. takes the thick cigar trend to a new level. Inch by E.P. Carrillo, a line of three cigars with ring gauges no thinner than 60 are adorned with bands made to look like old rulers. The fattest of the trio has a ring gauge of 64, making it exactly



one inch thick. Inch comes in a natural Ecuadorian Sumatra variety or a Connecticut Broadleaf maduro version. Both types are packaged in roughly hewn slide-lid cabinets of 24 and come in three sizes: No. 62, which measures 5 inches by 62 ring; No. 60, which is 5 7/8 by 60; and No. 64, at 6 1/8 by 64.

Also: The E. P. Carrillo Core Maduro line now has each of its cigars wrapped in cello. Plus, the box has a new red trim along the edges for more distinction.

EAST INDIA TRADING CO.

RED WITCH

Made by: American Caribbean Cigars, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Dom. Rep.

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$4.99–\$6.39

Details: Named after a trading ship from the 1800s, Red Witch is the second brand to be released under Gurkha's subsidiary distributor East India Trading Co. They come in distressed 50-count boxes and are rolled in three sizes: Robusto, 5 by 52; Rothchild, 6 by 54; and XO, 6 by 60.

Also: Dubbed the East India Cargo Chest, a decorative copper trunk of 284 cigars will contain an assortment of

Wicked Indie and Red Witch cigars, some of which are offered exclusively in this package. Only 1,000 were made and it will retail for \$1,750.

ESPINOSA CIGARS

ESPINOSA HABANO

Made by: La Zona, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$6.05–\$6.95

Details: Eric Espinosa, co-founder of the now defunct EO Brands (with Eddie Ortega), has branched out on his own and started an eponymous cigar line which features an Ecuadorian Habano-seed wrapper. Packaged in boxes of 20, Espinosa Habano comes in four sizes: Robusto, 5 by 50; Toro, 6 by 52; Belicoso, 5 1/2 by 52; Trabuco, 6 by 60.

LA ZONA

Made by: La Zona, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$4.40–\$4.80

Details: This wallet-friendly cigar brand comes in crates of 80, as well as refill bundles of 20 and comes in two sizes: Robusto, 5 by 52 and Super Toro, 6 1/2 by 52. An Ecuadorian Connecticut-seed version is also available.

What makes it special: A premium cigar for under \$5.00.

Also: Espinosa Cigars has reclaimed distribution and ownership rights to the 601 and Murcielago brands, which were previously distributed and partly owned by Rocky Patel.

EZRA ZION CIGAR CO.

INCEPTION

Made by: Tabacalera Tropical, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$11.50–\$12.50

Details: This new brand comes in a trio of sizes: Gran Robusto, 5 1/4 by 50; Exquisito, 6 1/2 by 52; and Corona Gorda, 6 1/2 by 54.

Also: The company also has a line made by Plasencia in Nicaragua called Reagan, in honor of the former president. It comes in two sizes, one named 40th, the other President.

FELIPE GREGORIO

DON CIRILO

Made by: La Isabella, Dominican Republic

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Cameroon

Filler: Dom. Rep.

Price: \$6.50–\$8.00

Details: Brand owner Philip Wynne named Don Cirilo after his wife's great-grandfather who was a tobacco grower in the Dominican Republic. The cigar is made at a small factory in Tamboril and is a combination of Ecuadoran Habano-seed wrapper, Dominican Corojo and Nicaraguan Viso. Four box-pressed sizes are available: Reserva Familiar No. 1, 7 by 50; Reserva Familiar No. 2, (torpedo) 6 by 54; Reserva Familiar No. 3, 6 by 56; and Reserva Familiar No. 4, 5 by 50.

Also: A maduro version is available in the same sizes and showcases a dark Cameroon-seed wrapper grown in Ecuador.

FLOR DE GONZALEZ

90 MILES 1980 EDITION

Made by: Flor de Gonzalez Cigar Factory, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Mexico

Binder: Ecuador

Filler: Nicaragua, Dom. Rep.

Price: \$6.50–\$6.90

Details: Unlike the core 90 Miles line, which is a Nicaraguan puro, 90 Miles 1980 Edition consists of San Andrés wrapper, an Ecuadoran Broadleaf binder, and filler from Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. It's debuting in two sizes: a 5 by 52 Gordito and a 6 by 56 Corona Gorda.

What makes it special: The first Flor De Gonzalez cigar to use San Andrés leaf.

FOGO CIGAR CO.

FOGO FINO

Made by: Fogo Cigar Factory, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Binder: Brazil

Filler: Brazil

Price: \$7.00–\$10.00

Details: Formerly the distributor for the Brazilian Dona Flor brand, Dana Sheldon once again takes up Brazilian

tobacco with Fogo Fino, his new Brazilian blend wrapped in a dark Nicaraguan wrapper leaf. The full-bodied line consists of four sizes: Robusto, 5 by 54; Toro, 6 by 52; 6 by 60, and the Fogo Gran Perfecto, 6 by 60.

FOGO PLATINUM

Made by: Fogo Cigar Factory, Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$8.00, \$11.00

Details: Released last Fall, his box-pressed Nicaraguan puro has two new sizes: a 6 by 60 and a 5 by 54 Robusto.

G. DISTRIBUTORS INC.

GRAYCLIFF SILVER

Made by: Graycliff Cigar Co., Nassau, Bahamas

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Ecuador

Filler: Costa Rica, Honduras, Philippines, Nicaragua

Price: \$20.75

Details: Silver, according to Graycliff, is a limited-edition luxury lifestyle brand and will come in two vitolas: a 6 by 52 torpedo called Pirate, and a 6 by 54 parejo dubbed 54. Graycliff says the tobacco used in Silver has been aged a minimum of five years and is made only by its top rollers. It will come in a 24-count faux silver bullion box.

B-CUZ

Made by: Graycliff Cigar Co., Nassau, Bahamas

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Indonesia

Filler: Honduras, Nicaragua

Price: \$7.50, \$7.95

Details: B-Cuz is a value brand available in two formats: Triple Robusto, measuring 6 by 54 and Torpedo, coming in at 6 by 52. Both come in bright orange boxes of 21.

Also: Graycliff has made some major changes behind the scenes. In March, the company moved its cigar production to a more spacious area of its Graycliff Hotel property in Nassau. Also, the company has resurrected its distribution arm, G. Distributors Inc., after working with Toraño Family Cigar Co., last year.



GENERAL CIGAR CO.

CAO CONCERT

Made by: Scandinavian Tobacco, Danli

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: U.S.A./Conn.

Broadleaf

Filler: Nicaragua, Honduras

Price: \$5.75–\$7.50

Details: Inspired by the brand's Nashville routes, brand manager Ed McKenna used a rock concert theme when he conceptualized CAO Concert. The cigars come in boxes that resemble classic Marshall amplifiers and are offered in four sizes: Amp, 5 1/2 by 46; Solo, 5 1/2 by 50; Roadie, 5 1/2 by 54; and Stage, 5 1/2 by 60.

Also: CAO OSA Sol is set for two new sizes: Lot 46, at 5 3/4 by 46, and Lot T, 4 1/2 by 50. Both retail for \$5.50.



COHIBA DIAMANTE

Made by: General Cigar Dominicana, Dominican Republic

Wrapper: Cameroon

Binder: Indonesia

Filler: Dom. Rep.

Price: \$22.00, \$25.00

Details: According to General, the company is using Cameroon wrapper from a 1980 crop for the Cohiba Diamante brand, which will only come in two sizes, each individually cuffed and presented in boxes of 10. The Robusto is 5 inches by 50 while the Toro is 6 by 54.

DON SIXTO

Made by: Tabacos de Oriente S.A., Honduras

Wrapper: Honduras

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Honduras, Nicaragua

Price: \$5.75–\$7.25

Details: Named after the Plasencia family's founding patriarch, Don Sixto is the first official collaboration between General Cigar and the Plasencia Group. The brand features a Connecticut-seed wrapper grown in Honduras and comes in four sizes that should hit retail shelves by October: Robusto, 4 1/2 by 50; Corona Gorda, 5 1/2 by 52; Toro Grande, 6 by 56; and Grande, 6 by 54.

FOUNDRY

Made by: General Cigar Dominicana, Dominican Republic

Wrapper: U.S.A./Connecticut

Binder: N/A

Filler: N/A

Price: \$7.95–\$9.45

Details: Adopting the Steampunk theme in its presentation,

Foundry takes the motifs found in Victorian-era science fiction and incorporates them into its packaging for a four-size line that features a proprietary Connecticut wrapper dubbed H-47 Pleno Sol. These thick cigars come in boxes of 24. Sizes are named after icons of the Steampunk genre: No. 1 Wells, 6 by 50; No. 2 Lovelace, 6 1/4 by 54; No. 3 Talbot, 5 by 60; No. 4 Cayley, 6 1/2 by 60 (rolled with a bulbous head, pointy tip and thin body whose foot is cut at an angle).

What makes it special: Each cigar comes fastened with a metal gear around its band. This is the first official Steampunk cigar.

LA GLORIA CUBANA TRUNK SHOW LIGA YG-23

Made by: General Cigar Dominicana, Dominican Republic

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: N/A

Filler: Dom. Rep., Nicaragua

Price: \$9.45

Details: Featuring a smokable band, the YG-23 comes fitted with a homogenized tobacco leaf (HTL) band stamped with the La Gloria Cubana logo using a vegetable dye that allows the cigar enthusiast to actually smoke the band should he wish to puff it all the way down to a nub. Each cigar measures 7 by 60 and comes in rustic boxes of 26.

What makes it special: The band is smokable.

LA GLORIA CUBANA TRUNK SHOW LIGA LR-1

Made by: General Cigar Dominicana, Dominican Republic

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

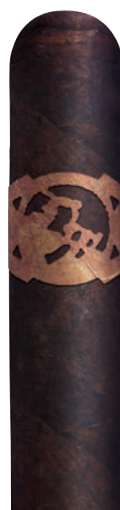
Binder: N/A

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$8.95

Details: The 7 by 52 Liga LR-1 takes a different approach to the smokable band concept. Not only is the blend different from the Liga YG-23 noted above, but the smokable band is actually a piece of tobacco meticulously die cut in the shape of the La Gloria Cubana logo. It comes in lacquered boxes of 26 and should be available in November.

What makes it special: The detailed band is a piece of die-cut tobacco that one can smoke if they so choose.



MACANUDO VINTAGE 2006

Made by: General Cigar Dominicana, Dominican Republic

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

Binder: U.S.A./Conn. Habano

Filler: Nicaragua, Dom. Rep., Honduras

Price: \$8.39, \$8.99

Details: The first Macanudo Vintage release since the 2000 crop, 2006 marks another vintage year of exceptional wrapper leaf from the Connecticut River Valley. They will come fitted with golden metal cigar bands and are offered in two sizes: Robusto, 5 1/2 by 50, and Toro, 6 by 54. The cigars should hit retail by November.

Also: This October will see the release of a new Partagas Benji Menendez Master Series: The LX, which measures 6 by 54 and retails for \$10.75 each. The Partagas 160 Limited Edición Humidor (made by Elie Bleu) will hold 60 cigars from the Partagás 160 line—a brand that features Cameroon wrapper from a 1977 crop. Set for December release, the package will retail for \$4,950. Plus, Macanudo 1968 is getting a tin of petits called the Court, which goes for \$13.99 per tin of five. Partagas Black Label has a new 5 by 60 cigar called Colossal, and it carries a \$7.39 MSRP.

GURKHA CIGAR GROUP

GURKHA 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Made by: PDR Cigars, Dominican Republic

Wrapper: Brazil

Binder: Ecuador

Filler: Nicaragua, Brazil, Dom. Rep.

Price: \$8.39–\$10.99

Details: While the Gurkha Cigar Group is not turning 125 years old, its namesake cigar is. Gurkhas date back to 1887 when British colonial soldiers smoked local cigars in Nepal and dubbed the smokes “Gurkhas” after the legendary mountain fighters. The cigars use a wrapper called Cuba, which is short for Cuban-seed Brazilian, and come packaged in attractively finished, mango-wood boxes of 20. Four sizes are: Robusto, 5 by 52; Rothchild, 6 by 54; Torpedo, 6 1/2 by 54; and XO, 6 by 60.



GURKHA GHOST

Made by: PDR Cigars, Dominican Republic

Wrapper: Brazil

Binder: Dom. Rep.

Filler: Nicaragua, Dom. Rep.

Price: \$6.29–\$8.99

Details: The dark, black-on-black boxes foreshadow the near-black Brazilian Arapiraca wrapper that defines this cigar, which comes in four sizes: Shadow, 5 by 52; Asura, 6 by 54; Angel, 6 by 52; Exorcist, 6 by 60.

HAVANA CELLARS/ TATUAJE CIGARS

TATUAJE MONSTER SERIES THE MUMMY

Made by: My Father Cigars S.A., Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$13.00

Details: The fifth in Tatuaje’s hot Monster Series, this year’s installment is called The Mummy, a 7 3/4 inch long, 47 ring gauge smoke. As mummies are cloaked in bandages, this cigar has an uncut tuck, where the wrapper leaf is extended over the foot of the cigar. As with all Monster Series cigars, these will be released on Halloween, and an “unlucky” 13 retailers will be the only ones to receive the limited-edition boxes, which in this case is made to look like a sarcophagus. More cigars will be sold in plain boxes.

LA CASITA CRIOLLA HCR

Made by: My Father Cigars S.A., Nicaragua

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

Binder: U.S.A./Conn. Broadleaf

Filler: U.S.A./Conn. Broadleaf

Price: \$6.75

Details: Pete Johnson loves broadleaf tobacco, and loves it so much that he created an all-broadleaf brand in 2011 called La Casita Criolla. Intriguingly, the brand had three sizes, but no robusto—so this year he has added a 5 by 50 robusto size called HCR. The size was unveiled in the spring in the southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado) and is now going national.

What makes it special: An all-broadleaf cigar.

TATUAJE AVION 12

Made by: My Father Cigars S.A., Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$8.50

Details: The Avion 12 is a new addition to this off-shoot of the Fausto by Tatuaje line. Tatuaje Avion is a one-size-per-year brand. The 12 is a box-pressed perfecto measuring 5 5/8 by 52.

TATUAJE PRIVATE RESERVE THE OLD MAN AND THE C

Made by: My Father Cigars S.A., Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua

Price: \$30.00 (four cigars)

Details: The Old Man and the C combines one lancero (the old man) and a culebra, a braided trio of panetelas (the C). **Also:** The Tatuaje Cojonu 2012 Sumatra, Broadleaf and Habano (6 1/2 by 52, \$13.00) are now available in cabinet boxes of 25 cigars. Tatuaje added a 4 1/2 by 52 cigar to its Fausto line called FT114. The \$7.50 cigar debuted in the spring in the Midwest, but is now available.



HONDURAS CARIBBEAN TOBACCO

CARMELO PRIMEROS

Made by: Honduras Caribbean S.A., Honduras

Wrapper: Ecuador

Binder: Nicaragua

Filler: Nicaragua, Honduras

Price: \$9.00–\$11.00

Details: Two years of blending have produced Honduras Caribbean's first new line since 2010—Carmelo Primeros, which features an Ecuador Habano Oscuro wrapper and a double Nicaraguan binder. It will come in five sizes: Gordo at 6 by 60, Churchill at 7 by 48, Belicoso at 5 3/4 by 54, Toro at 6 by 50, and Robusto at 5 by 52.

What makes it special: This was two years in the making.

CORRECTION

The August 14 *Cigar Insider* had the wrong prices for Ashton's La Aroma de Cuba Mi Amor Reserva. The correct price range for the new cigar line is \$8.50 to \$9.95. ■

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