

CIGARS

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The *POWER* of the *CIGAR*!

- Here's a story about a child who was still -born or so they thought. But not Don Salvador, a doctor, who took the baby into his arms & blew a smoke right into the baby's nostrils. The cigar puffed life into the baby who was later christened as Pablo. The world later revered him as **PICASSO!**

Say NO! to cigarettes & YEAH to cigars!

- Low nicotine.
- No chemicals used in the tobacco.
- Organically grown.
- Non-carcinogenic.
- & you don't inhale the smoke-just twirl the smoke around your taste buds.

Cigar smoke touches about 100 square centimeters of the mouth membrane surface. In cigarette smoke the minimal surface touched is about 50 square meters of the lungs & its membranes.

Winston Churchill smoked

- Nearly three lakh cigars in his lifetime

and he lived to be **NINETY!**

Some believe **CIGARS** are actually good for health!



Cigar Sizes

- The size of a cigar when determined by a name such as Corona or Robusto is nearly meaningless as it is not a universal standard. In other words one company's Corona might be another company's Churchill, even though they both have the exact ring size & length.
- There are however 'classic' measurements for cigars that most makers attempt to follow.
- Cigars are categorized by length and ring gauge, which is a measurement that is divided into 64th of an inch. A cigar with a 52 ring gauge will measure 52/64ths of an inch. in diameter.

Storing:-

- Cigars are a natural agricultural product and will smoke poorly or wonderfully depending upon the care you give them. Therefore the cigars you are using for your dinner show up a day or two earlier you must be prepared to take care of them.
- If cigars are to be kept beyond a week then they need to be stored in a proper humidified environment. The correct balance for this environment is a humidity of 70-72% and a temperature of 15-18* c.

The Solution is a HUMIDOR!

- A humidor can maintain your cigars at its peak of smokability!
- The humidor tries to recreate the tropical or semi tropical environment in which most cigar tobacco is grown, and where most fine handrolled premium cigars are manufactured and aged.
- Cedar is the best wood you could use for the insides of a humidor, because of its ability to enhance the aging process. It allows the various tobaccos in a cigar the chance to “marry” so that the cigar is not composed of distinct pieces of tobacco, but of subtle nuances of taste.

Humidors could be

- Table top or desk top,
- Vertical cylinders,
- Standing cabinets, or
- Walkins as long as they maintain the correct humidity. Fluctuations can swell the tobacco and cause the wrapper to crack.
- While travelling a carrying case would be an ideal accessory. They could be pocket cases or tubes.

Cutting:

- Handmade premium cigars must be cut before they are smoked. A double blade guillotine cigar cutter is probably the best way to cut a cigar. You would also find the single blade guillotine, which accomplishes the same purpose, but it could damage the wrapper as the pressure is not equal on both sides.
- All you need to do is to place the head of the Cigar between the blades and squeeze each side of the cutter.

Cutting

- **Scissors are also made for cutting cigar heads. However they need to be very sharp to get the job done, as they are not as stable as the guillotine cutters. Moreover they are not easy to carry around unlike the guillotine.**
- **Another type is the V shaped cutter which leaves a V shaped gouge in the cigar. The head of the cigar may collapse in this case or at least become mushy and soft.**
- **Another tool used to open the wrapper at the head of the cigar is a drill. They essentially punch a whole in the wrapper which allows the smoke to pass through the head.**



Finally:

THE CIGAR EXPERIENCE:-

- Taste and even flavour can be subjective. To try defining those elements for cigars may require the most technical aspects of cigar making. Many cigar lovers don't care. Professional tobacco men and experienced smokers can tell the difference between a good cigar and a bad one.
- There's more to it than just putting a cigar in your mouth and puffing away. An overall impression of a cigar means using all your senses. Sight, Touch, Smell, Taste & even your hearing plays a role in cigar smoking.

- **The first thing that you must tell your guest is to inspect the cigar. At first sight & touch go hand in hand. Even if this act is only subconscious, the appearance & feel of the cigar wrapper tells a story, and several lessons about taste can be learned from the outside of any cigar. Then listen to it. Roll the cigar between the fingers in order to determine the moisture content of the wrapper and the filler.**
- **The wrapper does not make or break the cigar. But it plays an important role because it is your first contact with the personality and the character of the cigar, at the same time providing for texture & beauty.**

Common terminology associated with cigars.

- **Band**-A ring of paper around the head of the cigar denoting the cigars brand.
- **Binder**-A Tobacco leaf used to hold the filler leaves together.
- **Blend**-The mixture of different types of tobacco in a cigar.
- **Bloom**-A fine white powder appearing on a cigar caused by oil that exude from the tobacco.
- **Foot**-The end of the cigar that you light.
- **Draw**- The amount of air that is pulled through .

Cont:-

- **Bunch**-The body of the cigar created by different the different types of tobacco that are blended together.
- **Bundle**-A way of packaging cigars using cellophane wrapping. It normally contains 25-50 cigars.
- **Candela**-A bright green shade of wrapper. Also called double claro.
- **Cap**-A circular piece of wrapper at the head of the cigar.
- **Claro**-A pale green to light brown wrapper which is usually shade grown.

Cont:-

- **Colorado-A medium brown to brownish red wrapper.**
- **Filler-Tobacco leaves that are used to make up the bunch.**
- **Flag-An alternative to the cap. It involves twisting the wrapper at the head into a pigtail.**
- **Gum-An adhesive used to secure the head of the wrapper.**
- **Head-The end of the cigar that you would cut and smoke.**
- **Maduro-A dark reddish brown to black wrapper**

Cont.

- **Oscuro**-A black shade of wrapper.
- **Puro**-A term used to differentiate a cigar from a cigarette.
- **Wrapper**-The tobacco leaf which is wrapped around the bunch and binder.
- **Shade grown**- Wrapper leaves that are grown under a tent which creates a more thinner and elastic leaf.
- **Sun grown**-Tobacco grown in direct sunlight which creates a thicker leaf.