

cigar aficionado

THE GOOD LIFE MAGAZINE FOR MEN

www.cigaraficionado.com

**EDITORS'
PICKS:**

**25
BEST
CIGARS
OF THE
YEAR**

**HIT IT
LONGER
GOLF'S NEW
HIGH-TECH
DRIVERS**

**HOW TO
WIN AT
BLACKJACK**

**BENTLEY
REBORN
A CLASSIC
ROARS BACK**

**FREE
RING
GAUGE
INSIDE**

**THE 24
PHENOMENON**

**KIEFER
THE CAST
THE CIGAR CLUB
SEASON FIVE SURPRISES**

FEBRUARY 2006 \$4.95
\$5.95 CAN \$6 CUBA \$5.00 UK

02 >



0 70989 35955 0

Robustos tend to be one of our higher-scoring cigar categories. Cigar smokers love the size—the robusto has been the king of cigar shops for the past decade, the most popular cigar size in America, if not the world—and cigarmakers have helped maintain that trend, putting some of their finest tobaccos inside their robusto cigars. It's an easy size to appreciate, averaging a quite manageable five inches in length with a considerable ring gauge of around 50. That thickness allows for a large number of leaves to be put into a blend, and the length lets a smoker consume a robusto in a shorter time than other fat cigars, namely double coronas and Churchills. It's a perfect power-lunch smoke. ■ The only robusto to score 90 points or higher in this issue is the Oliva Master Blends 2. Crafted by Oliva Cigar Co., which is making a name for itself as one of the standout cigarmakers in Nicaragua, this cigar is as rich in flavor as it is attractive. Other high scorers included a Toraño, a C.A.O. and a Cuban Punch.



NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

OLIVA MASTER BLENDS 2 ROBUSTO

An attractive and silky robusto with a lush draw and pleasant aroma. It's leathery and toasty, with a rich body and a meaty character. Medium to full bodied.
U.S.: \$9.00 U.K.: N/A

91



HONDURAS

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 4 3/4"
FILLER: HONDURAS, NICARAGUA,
PANAMA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

CARLOS TORAÑO VIRTUOSO ENCORE

A dark, well-made robusto that has a firm draw. It's peppery, with caramel, sweet wood and floral notes. The finish is savory. Medium bodied.
U.S.: \$5.96 U.K.: N/A

89



NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 5"
FILLER: NICARAGUA, COLOMBIA
BINDER: CAMEROON
WRAPPER: CAMEROON

C.A.O. CX2 ROBUSTO

A nicely made cigar with good color. It burns with a lovely aroma. It's savory and floral, with a balsa wood flavor, and takes on a hint of earth. Medium bodied.
U.S.: \$8.25 U.K.: N/A

88



HONDURAS

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 4 1/2"
FILLER: COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA,
MEXICO
BINDER: ECUADOR
WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

GRAN HABANO COROJO NO. 5 ROTHCHILD

Velvety in texture, this rich, cedary cigar has good balance, but is a bit charred and dry on the finish. Medium bodied.
U.S.: \$3.35 U.K.: N/A

88



CUBA

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 4 13/16"
FILLER: CUBA
BINDER: CUBA
WRAPPER: CUBA
BOX DATE: N/A

PUNCH ROBUSTO EDICION REGIONAL

Good sheen on this well-made cigar. It's cedary, with a creamy, toasty flavor and a slightly sour finish. Medium bodied.
U.S.: N/A SWITZ.: 25 Sw. FRANCS

88

Oliva "O" Classic Olé

Like many other companies, Oliva Cigar tried to break into the cigar business by crafting a blend of tobaccos from various countries that created an easygoing flavor profile. When the cigar trade grew lean, the company turned to the Nicaraguan tobacco grown by family patriarch Gilberto Oliva. It turned out to be a blessing. The Olivas are making stellar cigars, and because the family-owned company grows much of its own tobacco leaf and eschews debt, it charges reasonable prices for most of them. The robusto-sized Olé, which measures 5 by 50, retails for \$4.50, making it one of the least expensive cigars on this list. It's medium bodied and rich in flavor.

MADE BY: Oliva Cigar Co.

FACTORY LOCATION: Nicaragua

WRAPPER: Nicaragua

BINDER: Nicaragua

FILLER: Nicaragua

PRICE: \$4.50

2005 PRODUCTION: 100,000 cigars

RATING: 91



9

65



*The Oliva "O" Classic Olé is now known as SERIE O Robusto

tasting highlights

Cuban cigars continue to score well in our taste tests. Our top score of 92 points went to a Cuban Saint Luis Rey Serie A, a rich smoke made in fairly small quantities. Cohiba cigars have done particularly well in recent issues. After leading two categories in October and one in December, a Cohiba, the Siglo III, led our corona category this issue with a 91-point score and the Cohiba Esplendido scored 90 to tie as the top Churchill with an Arturo Fuente and an Alec Bradley. Two Nicaraguan cigars scored 91 points to lead the figurado and robusto categories respectively, a Padrón Serie 1926 and an Oliva Master Blends 2.



TOP ROBUSTO

OLIVA MASTER BLENDS 2 ROBUSTO

Nicaragua's Oliva Cigar Co. keeps making high-scoring cigars. One of its latest, the Master Blends 2, won our robusto category, which traditionally delivers some of our highest scores.

NICARAGUA

91