

# Cigar Insider

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## FEATURED CIGAR

### OLIVA SERIE V TORPEDO

NICARAGUA ■ PRICE: \$6.75 ■ BODY: MED. TO FULL

*For a full tasting, see page two*

94

POINTS

## BEST CIGARS THIS ISSUE

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## TASTING REPORT

### OLIVA SERIE V

#### NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

**Country:** Nicaragua

**Maker:** Tabacalera Oliva S.A.

**Distributor:** Oliva Cigar Co.

**Filler:** Nicaragua

**Binder:** Nicaragua

**Wrapper:** Nicaragua

**Release Date:** June 2007

### TORPEDO

94 POINTS ■ 6" x 56 ■ \$6.75 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

This attractive, oily torpedo is full of dynamic nut, wood and sweet cedar flavors that frame a substantial leather core. The finish is long and rich. Tasty and complex.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### DOUBLE ROBUSTO

92 POINTS ■ 5" x 54 ■ \$5.50 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

An impeccably constructed cigar with great oils and rich color. The draw is perfect, imparting significant earth and coffee bean flavors that linger on the finish.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### CHURCHILL EXTRA

89 POINTS ■ 7" x 52 ■ \$7.25

Great color and oils on this cigar and it smokes well. Leather, wood and black cherry flavors are balanced with a spicy core but more age will benefit this cigar.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### LANCERO

89 POINTS ■ 7" x 38 ■ \$5.00 ■ BEST BUY

Covered in a dark wrapper, this lancero has an even draw and burn. It is leathery with some coffee flavors and a woody finish. Some dry notes were detected.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### SPECIAL V FIGURADO

89 POINTS ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$8.00

A good-looking salamone that draws and burns well. The flavors are predominantly woody with licorice notes and an oily finish.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### DOUBLE TORO

88 POINTS ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$7.00

Thick and hefty, this good-looking cigar has a slightly firm draw. It is woody, nutty and spicy with some tangy wood on the finish.

**Body:** Medium to Full

### BELICOSO

87 POINTS ■ 5" x 54 ■ \$5.50

This mini torpedo draws well, giving off a pleasant aroma as it burns. Its flavors are mostly woody with tangy undertones throughout.

**Body:** Medium to Full

**BRAND SUMMARY:** The Oliva Serie V is the newest release from Oliva Cigar Co. It had a soft release in June, debuting at a few retailers in the United States, but was officially launched at this summer's Retail Tobacco Dealers of America trade show. The Oliva family created the cigar with the intention of combining power and balance. According to vice president Jose Oliva, it is the strongest cigar they have released. The top priming, Nicaraguan Habano-seed sun-grown wrapper contributes to the cigars' strength. In this tasting, all were consistently medium to full bodied. Construction-wise, every size was rolled with very attractive, oily wrappers. Two cigars stood out. The Torpedo, which scored 94 points, was an outstanding cigar, with aesthetics, strength, complexity and many flavors that kept the cigar interesting and balanced. The Double Robusto, which has a triple-seam cap like the other parejos in the line, scored 92 points. The Serie V also comes in a culebra size available exclusively at special events.

**Average Rating:** 89.7 points

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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.*