

# Cigar Insider

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## FEATURED CIGAR

**OLIVA MASTER BLENDS 3  
LIGA MAESTRA ROBUSTO**  
NICARAGUA ■ PRICE: \$9.00 ■ BODY: MEDIUM

*For a full tasting, see page two.*

92 POINTS

## BEST CIGARS THIS ISSUE

Oliva Master Blends 3 Robusto	Nicaragua	92
Oliva Master Blends 3 Double Robusto	Nicaragua	91
Oliva Master Blends 3 Torpedo	Nicaragua	91
Alonso Menendez Robusto	Brazil	89
601 Torpedo	Nicaragua	89
Five Tied At	Various	88

**BRAND SUMMARY:** Oliva's high-end Master Blends line is a rarity in the cigar world. Rather than being blended for a consistent flavor, each incarnation of the brand changes, and has its own identity. This is the third version of Master Blends, and the previous two have either sold out or are hard to find. The cigars are made in limited quantities in Nicaragua. Another change: this Master Blend has no markings on the wrapper leaf.

**Average Rating:** 90.3 points

## TASTING REPORT

### OLIVA MASTER BLENDS 3 LIGA MAESTRA

#### NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

**Country:** Nicaragua

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

**Distributor:** Oliva Cigars Inc.

**Filler:** Nicaragua

**Binder:** Nicaragua

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

**Release Date:** July 2006

#### ROBUSTO

92 POINTS ■ 5" x 50 ■ \$9.00 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

A pressed cigar with an oily, chocolate brown wrapper. A good draw imparts a good balance of earthy, creamy flavors. The spicy finish hints of brown sugar.

**Body:** Medium

#### DOUBLE ROBUSTO

91 POINTS ■ 5" x 54 ■ \$11.00 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

Pressed with a smooth wrapper, this cigar has a fine draw. It is sweet and woody with some rich coffee notes and a toasty finish. Well balanced.

**Body:** Medium to Full

#### TORPEDO

91 POINTS ■ 6" x 52 ■ \$12.00 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION

Dark and pressed, this torpedo smokes well with sweet and savory notes framing a spicy core. Nut and leather flavors build to a pleasant saffron finish.

**Body:** Medium to Full

#### CHURCHILL

87 POINTS ■ 7" x 50 ■ \$11.00

Well made with an even draw and burn. It takes awhile to warm up, but eventually shows wood, paper and earth flavor. Some dry notes were noted on the finish.

**Body:** Medium

## OLIVA RELEASES ROUND TRIO

BY DAVID SAVONA

Most of the accolades given to burgeoning cigarmaker Oliva Cigar Co. have gone to the company's square cigars, which are finished in the style known as trunk pressing. In a bit of a switch, Oliva recently released a trio of cigars that are round. The three new sizes are part of the Oliva Serie G line, which used to be known as Oliva Grand Cameroon.

"We decided to make some round sizes so that connoisseurs who preferred round cigars could enjoy this blend as well," said Oliva vice president Jose Oliva. "The round shape allows for more tobacco and delivers a very different flavor."

The sizes are the Toro, which measures 6 inches by 50 ring and has a suggested retail price of \$3.35; Double Robusto, which is 5 inches by 54 and sells for \$3.95, and Special G, a tidy perfecto measuring 3 3/4 inches long with a 49 ring gauge at its fattest point. It retails for \$2.50. The Toro is also available in a tubed version, which sells for \$3.85.

The cigars are wrapped in Cameroon wrapper, and have Nicaraguan filler and binder. Oliva is a family-owned company headquartered in Miami Lakes, Florida, and it rolls all of its cigars in Nicaragua, many of them with Nicaraguan tobacco grown on its farms.

The Oliva cigars in the Serie G line have scored exceptionally well in blind tastings. In a vertical brand tasting under the old name Grand Cameroon conducted in the March 7 *Cigar Insider*, the line scored an average of 90.2 points. Four of the five sizes scored 90 points or more, and one, the Belicoso, scored 92. For more ratings on Oliva cigars, [click here](#). ■