

Cigar Insider

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FEATURED CIGAR

OLIVA SERIE V
DOUBLE ROBUSTO
 NICARAGUA ■ **PRICE:** \$7.22
BODY: MEDIUM TO FULL
For a full tasting, see page two.



BEST CIGARS THIS ISSUE

Oliva Serie V Double Robusto	Nicaragua	92
Oliva Serie V Torpedo	Nicaragua	92
Oliva Serie V Lancero	Nicaragua	91
Oliva Serie V Special V Figurado	Nicaragua	90



VERTICAL BRAND TASTING: OLIVA SERIE V

OLIVA SERIE V IS THE HIGH-SCORING SMOKE FROM OLIVA CIGAR.

The Nicaraguan puros have been on the market for six years, and in that time they have placed on *Cigar Aficionado's* Top 25 list five times, which is quite a feat. In this issue, we tasted all eight standard sizes of the brand, which is rolled in Estelí, Nicaragua, using a high-priming wrapper that gleams with oils. True to their expectations, the cigars performed well and with consistency, most of them showing a medium to full body, the others a completely full body. Oliva Serie Vs are flavorful, powerful and dependable smokes that always seem to do well in our tastings. The detailed report begins on page two.

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OLIVA SERIE V

VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua
Maker: Tabacalera Oliva S.A.
Distributor: Oliva Cigar Co.
Filler: Nicaragua
Binder: Nicaragua
Wrapper: Nicaragua
Purchase Date: August 2013

DOUBLE ROBUSTO

92 POINTS ■ 5" x 54 ■ \$7.22 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION
 Peppery and bold, this tasty cigar is distinct with coffee, leather, and salty, earthy notes. It's flawlessly rolled, with a gorgeous wrapper and four seams on the cap.
Body: Medium to Full

TORPEDO

92 POINTS ■ 6" x 56 ■ \$8.66 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION
 Nearly flawless in appearance, this pointy torpedo imparts plenty of leather and tea on the palate with tangy, dried orange peel, walnut notes and a spicy finish.
Body: Medium to Full

LANCERO

91 POINTS ■ 7" x 38 ■ \$6.64 ■ HUMIDOR SELECTION
 This well-made lancero imparts a dense, chewy smoke that is sweet and hearty with brown sugar and mesquite. Mineral and coffee notes come through as well.
Body: Medium to Full

SPECIAL V FIGURADO

90 POINTS ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$10.11
 Strong with notes of hearty wood and heavily roasted coffee, this peculiarly shaped perfecto becomes rich and spicy after it opens up.
Body: Full

BELICOSO

89 POINTS ■ 5" x 54 ■ \$7.22
 Elegantly rolled with a four-seam cap, this tiny torpedo is a powerhouse from the first puffs, smacking of strong black pepper and a punch of spicy wasabi.
Body: Full

CHURCHILL EXTRA

89 POINTS ■ 7" x 52 ■ \$9.24
 This thick Churchill is bold and flavorful, starting spicy and strong with prominent woody notes that build to an earthy, fruity finish.
Body: Full

DOUBLE TORO

89 POINTS ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$8.95
 This thick log of a cigar is very well constructed, with a dark, richly hued wrapper and a four-seam cap. It delivers smoky cedar, mesquite and a touch of sweetness.
Body: Medium to Full

NO. 4

87 POINTS ■ 5" x 43 ■ \$5.00 ■ BEST BUY
 Despite its diminutive size, this small cigar is a spicy bomb of leather and minerality. It's bold and flavorful, but has a slightly rough finish.
Body: Full

BRAND SUMMARY: The Oliva Serie V first had its soft release in June 2007, debuting at a few retailers in the United States, and was officially launched at the IPCPR trade show that summer. Since its launch six years ago, the cigar has done quite well in our tastings, appearing on *Cigar Aficionado's* Top 25 Cigars of the Year list five times in both the Nicaraguan and maduro wrapper varieties. The top-priming, Nicaraguan Habano-seed, sun-grown wrappers found on the cigars contribute to their strength. (Oliva also occasionally releases limited-edition versions of the Serie V with Connecticut broadleaf wrappers. Last year it also released a limited edition of the Serie V called the Serie V Melanio, the Figurado size of which scored 93 points in a taste test.) In this tasting, we found all the Serie Vs consistently medium to full in body. Every size was skillfully rolled with an attractive, oily wrapper. Two cigars stood out. Both the Torpedo and Double Robusto received 92 points, tying for the highest rating in the entire issue. The comparably narrow Lancero also scored well, achieving 91 points. All three earned the distinction of Humidor Selection.
Average Rating: 89.9 points

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.*