

Cigares.com

Tasting notebook

Cigares.com — the printable notebook to rate, compare and share your cigars

How to taste a cigar in 6 steps

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1. Identify

Write down the cigar, brand, vitola, country, date, place and pairing. Without context a note loses its meaning.

2. Observe

Look at the wrapper: colour, oils, veins, regularity, a neatly rolled head. Good construction is the first sign of quality.

3. Smell cold

Bring the cigar to your nose, wrapper then foot. Leather, hay, cocoa, spice: cold notes hint at what follows.

4. Light up & follow the burn

Toast the foot without scorching the wrapper. Watch the draw, the ash and the smoke volume throughout.

5. Taste by thirds

Note the aromas in the first, second and last third. Intensity and complexity almost always evolve.

6. Conclude

Rate the finish, the overall balance, then give a score. Write in one sentence what you remember.

Tips

- Take your time: one puff every 45 to 60 seconds.
- If the cigar goes out, let it rest, blow gently through it, then relight.
- Plain water or a neutral coffee keeps your palate ready.
- Write your notes right after: aroma memory fades quickly.

Score out of 100						
Draw /20	**Balance** /20	**Aroma quality** /20	**Construction** /15	**Finish length** /15	**Bouquet** /6	**Intensity** /4

Find this sheet online, get your score calculated automatically and publish it:
cigares.com/en/tasting

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Cigar aromas

Tick what you perceive. The seven families below are the ones used on Cigares.com.

Animal / Musky

☐ Amber ☐ Leather ☐ Musk ☐ Raw tobacco

Floral

☐ Acacia ☐ White flowers ☐ Jasmine ☐ Honey

Fruity

☐ Citrus ☐ Almond ☐ Peanut ☐ Black fruit ☐ Red fruit ☐ Hazelnut ☐ Walnut ☐ Pistachio

Roasted / Toasted

☐ Coffee ☐ Caramel ☐ Chocolate ☐ Bread / Toast ☐ Blond tobacco

Earthy / Mineral

☐ Clay ☐ Ashes ☐ Mushroom ☐ Graphite ☐ Flint ☐ Wet earth

Vegetal

☐ Oak ☐ Cedar ☐ Grassy ☐ Green pepper ☐ Forest floor ☐ Tea

Spicy

☐ Anise ☐ Cinnamon ☐ Cumin ☐ Ginger ☐ Pepper ☐ Licorice

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IDENTIFICATION

CIGAR

BRAND

COUNTRY

VITOLA / RING

DATE

PLACE

PAIRING

PRICE PAID

APPEARANCE

WRAPPER COLOUR

☐ Clarao ☐ Claro ☐ Colorado Claro ☐ Colorado ☐ Colorado Maduro ☐ Maduro ☐ Negro

CONSTRUCTION (/15)

☐ Excellent ☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor

COLD AROMA

DRAW & BURN

DRAW (/20)

☐ Perfect ☐ Easy ☐ Slightly tight ☐ Too easy ☐ Tight ☐ Very poor

ASH

☐ White ☐ Light gray ☐ Gray ☐ Dark gray ☐ Black

SMOKE VOLUME

☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Rich ☐ Abundant

AROMAS BY THIRD

1st third	☐ Animal · ☐ Floral · ☐ Fruity · ☐ Roasted · ☐ Earthy · ☐ Vegetal · ☐ Spicy
2nd third	☐ Animal · ☐ Floral · ☐ Fruity · ☐ Roasted · ☐ Earthy · ☐ Vegetal · ☐ Spicy
Last third	☐ Animal · ☐ Floral · ☐ Fruity · ☐ Roasted · ☐ Earthy · ☐ Vegetal · ☐ Spicy
Other aromas	

INTENSITY (/4)

☐ Expressive ☐ Subtle ☐ Closed

BOUQUET (/6)

☐ Simple ☐ Complex

AROMA QUALITY (/20)

☐ Excellent ☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Bad

PALATE

FINISH LENGTH (/15)

☐ Short ☐ Medium ☐ Long ☐ Very long

FINISH

SUMMARY

BALANCE (/20)

☐ Excellent ☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Bad

STRENGTH

☐ Very mild ☐ Mild ☐ Medium ☐ Full-bodied ☐ Full strength

NOTES

____ /100

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