



CHRISTMAS ISSUE

CHRISTMAS 2002

Our last newsletter of the year is always this Christmas Issue. We have a lot going on between now and December 31. In this Issue you will find lots of gift ideas for friends and business colleagues, notices of a bunch of in-store and special events we have planned for December, as well as more details for our trip to Cuba in February and early notice of our 4-3-2-1 Pool Tournament in March.

We hope you have enjoyed these newsletters and our bulletins this year. Regular feedback has been very positive so they are on next years plan. But to wrap up this year, on behalf of Adam, Shawn and Homer, thank you all for making 2002 a really special year for Cigar Studio. Our 5th Anniversary Year was a real blast due to the strong support from you all.

Thanks again and have a safe and Happy Holiday season.

CUBAN TRIP ITINERARY

We now have a pretty good idea of most of the details of our trip to Havana. As we want this to be as informal as possible, and Cigar Studio is not a travel agency, here is what is on tap so far:

- **We** are leaving on Monday February 24 and coming back Sunday March 2. Airline is Lacsca (\$640 CDN return including taxes and tourist card).

Photo not available.

(above)

October 30, 2:30 PM, in Alejandro Robaina's tobacco farm in the Pinar Del Rio, Cuba.

By the time we get back to Cuba at the end of February, this 4" plant will be a 6' giant and destined to be part of some of the best Cuban cigar brands. To view some of the other pictures I took in advance of our February trip and to see some of things on our itinerary, go to www.cigarstudio.com.

- **We** will stay at one of two hotels both of which are in Old Havana (almost side by side), the Hotel Valencia or the Hotel Tejadillo (\$410/\$430 respectively per person based on double including transfers and breakfast).
- **A** private tour of Havana which will start with a little history of the island, the influence of the Spanish and American interests, the events leading up to the Revolution, the Soviet

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Holiday Super Saturdays

Beginning Saturday November 30 and continuing through to Saturday December 21, we have loaded up our Saturdays to make Christmas shopping easier and lots more fun.

- **November 30** – We celebrate the Dominican Republic with Leon Jimenes and Aurora. We will be featuring these brands all day with a host of in-store promotions and special combinations of cigar packages. We are also pleased to announce that Luis Lopez from the Aurora factory in the Dominican Republic will be in store making cigars for customers for Christmas and New Years consumption.
- **December 7** – Buenos Nos Cuba Amigo. Crisantos Cardenas from Cuba will be in store over the entire weekend (beginning Friday afternoon.) Crisantos is a master roller who has brought some terrific tobacco from Cuba with him to demonstrate the incredible art of making cigars. And how can you enjoy watching a cigar roller without a little Cuban rum. I think you get the picture.
- **December 14** – It's Pipe Day at Cigar Studio. We currently stock over 100 pipes and 60 different tobaccos. Representatives from some of our suppliers will be on hand to answer your questions about pipes and the blending of tobacco. If you are looking for a pipe for yourself or for a friend and/or want to treat yourself to some very special tobacco, drop in this Saturday.

It is also the final meeting of 2002 for the Kingsway Pipe Club. Members of the Burlington and Toronto Clubs will be joining us for a great session at the Crooked Cue. Join us from about 12:30 on.

- **December 21** – It's a surprise. But don't miss it.

Christmas Cigars at the Old Mill

Our last cigar event of the year promises to be very merry, as we gather at the Home Smith Lounge on Monday, December 9. In conjunction with WH Grant and Glenfiddich, The Old Mill and Cigar Studio are throwing a Christmas reception for customers and your guests. The evening will consist of 3 world class cigars – Cohiba Siglo 2, Romeo Y Julieta Exhibicion #4, and a Montecristo No 5; a 1oz dram of Glenfiddich plus 2 drinks of your choice; appetizers and hors d' oeuvres as prepared by the Old Mill kitchen. Crisantos Cardenas will also be rolling cigars for guests that night. Tickets all-inclusive are only \$75. We only have 50 tickets for sale so make your reservations ASAP at 416 237 9470.

Winter Humidor Maintenance

Don't forget about your humidor when the snow begins to arrive, as a little maintenance will insure that your cigars stay fresh all Winter. Re-soak your system with distilled water and wipe down the interior of the humidor with a little distilled water too. If you are not sure about the reading you are getting from your hygrometer, bring it in and we will recalibrate it for you. [Humidor maintenance is free here!](#)

Last year, we posted an entire article on humidor maintenance on our website. You can find it at www.cigarstudio.com under FAQ's.

Gift Ideas...

The following represent some new things and some of our best sellers. What is in common about them is that they represent some of our best values for Christmas gift ideas.

Cigar Gift Packs

We can package/wrap any cigar combination you wish. But here are several suggestions, each wrapped up with cutters/matches, and ready for the stocking;

- Macanudo 1993 Vintage No 3 \$25
- Dunhill Condados \$25
- Zino Mouton Cadet No 3 \$20
- Henry Clay Box Pressed Mirabella \$15

Cigar Accessories

- Lubinski 2 or 3 Cigar Case \$65/\$75
- Blazer Translucent Torch Lighter \$69
- Heritage Crystal Cigar Ashtray \$89
- Golfer Bag Cigar Holder/Kit \$49

Pipes

- Nording Silverline (reg \$95-\$115) \$65
- Cigar Studio "Paragon" by J. Calich \$100
- Stanwell or Peterson Pipe of the Year \$195 (reg \$300 - \$420)
- Classic Poker by Colm Magner \$159

Pipe Tobacco

- Samuel Gawith Assorted 50g Tins \$19.90
- Reiner Yellow Rum Aromatic 50g Tin \$15
- Cigar Studio Blend 100g Sampler \$30
- Solani 633 Virginia Flake 100g Tin \$30

Pipe Accessories

- Leather 4 Pipe/Tobacco Case \$89
- Wood/Glass Pipe Tobacco Jar \$30
- 7-Pipe Stand by Belton \$89
- Wood grain Pipe Tool \$30

More Gift Ideas...

Under \$25

- Roots Trifold Wallet \$12
- Cigar Aficionado Back-Issues \$15
- CS Nylon Cigar Jacket \$24
- SC Golf Tool \$24
- Ona 200 GM Smoke Block \$14
- MC Key fob w/ Light \$24

Under \$50

- Kent Hairbrush/Comb \$49
- Linden Cigar Desk Clock \$39
- CS Steak Knife Set \$45
- Roots Breakaway Travel Bag \$40
- SC Stainless Steel Flask \$45
- Devito, Moore, Arnold, Aficion. \$20

Under \$100

- Leather Flask/Cigar Tube \$89
- Swisscard/Pocket Light \$65
- Golf or Tennis Bookends \$99
- Men's Manicure Set \$75
- Western Humidification Kit \$89

For That Special Someone...

- Bober Cigar Chest \$849
- Dupont Chinese Lacquer Lighter \$1,100
- Bronze Cigar Hands Bookends \$199
- Dunhill Travel Humidor \$425
- Gretzky Signed Commemorative \$639
- Zino Titanium Cigar Cutter \$299
- Leather / Brass Desk Set \$149

But If You Can't Decide...

How about a Cigar Studio Gift Certificate. They are available in any amount you wish if you are not quite sure what to purchase.

And remember, we keep a well organized registry of customer purchases and preferences. If you are not sure about a favorite size or brands just ask us.

Itinerary... continued from page 1.

collapse through to today. We will then visit a number of points of cultural, historical and economic importance to Cuba.

- **Day trips and visits** include tours to a couple of cigar factories (I am crossing our fingers we can arrange El Laguito), a full day trip into the Pinar Del Rio, and a trip to the Vinales Valley.
- **Cigars and tobacco** are everywhere and I have a list of what I feel are the best places to shop for cigars. These are throughout the City but a couple of the best are right near our hotel.
- **Since we are staying in Old Havana** the must visit bars and restaurants there include the Floridita, La Bodeguita del Medio and the Roof bar at the Sevilla Hotel, El Altibe in Miramar, and the Terrace and Golf Bars at the National Hotel. I am sure we will find others – I sure did.
- **I am still waiting for final details** of how we best participate in the Official Festival Program. While this consists of a bunch of seminars and detailed presentations (more geared to tobacco importers and distributors), there is an opening reception (Monday Night) and

closing dinner (Friday Night) that we might attend. Tickets are hard to get and very expensive so I need more time to nail these options down.

- **There are many galleries and museums** but the two I recommend we visit are the Revolution Museum and the Museum of Arts.

Since this is not a package trip we are putting together (and quite frankly you can do some or all of what we are planning), for budget purposes plan on food/drinks/cigars per diem of between \$75 - \$100 a day depending on your eating/drinking/smoking preferences, but lets call it \$700 for the week. All the side trips to cigar factories, museums, the countryside and Vinales, the tour of the city/history etc will not run more than \$150-\$200. So the entire week can get done for around \$2,000 plus whatever I can negotiate for the Festival Activities.

Some of us have booked already. Carlson Wagonlit Travel (Bloor/Royal York) can book the airline now – call Laura @ 416 237 9277. I am booking the hotel depending on where we stay so give me a call.

Local Cigar Friendly Lounges and Bars

Now that the deck chairs have been put away for the winter, we get asked where one can enjoy a cigar over the next 4 months or so. When it is too cold to stand in the garage, check these places out.

- **Home Smith Lounge at The Old Mill**
- **Crooked Cue (after 8PM)**
- **Yellow Griffin in Bloor West Village**
- **Piano Bar at La Castile Steakhouse in Mississauga**
- **Indian Motorcycle Café, 2nd Floor Lounge**

The 6th Annual Cigar Studio/ Bondele Cigar 4- 3- 2- 1 Pool Tournament

Coming to the Crooked Cue on Tuesday March 4. Put this date in your calendar. Final details in January but you know the scoop.

Our Business Hours

Monday – Wednesday: 10am – 7pm
Thursday – Friday: 10 am – 8pm
Saturday: 10am – 6pm
Sunday: Noon – 5pm