

*The cigar is something that
commands respect.*

*It is made for all the
senses and all the pleasures;
for the nose, the palate,
the fingers, the eyes...*



What is a cigar ring gauge?

The ring gauge of a cigar goes hand-in-hand with its length since size drives a key component of style, construction, and burning experience. For illustration purposes, a 'ring' is equivalent to 1/64 of an inch in diameter – a 50-ring cigar equals 50/64 of an inch. While there are no set rules to the thickness of a cigar, there are industry standards most manufacturers follow, catering to the demands of the marketplace.

In the past, ring gauge was a product of Cuban cigar manufacturers' tribal knowledge. Most cigars were small in size: Petit Coronas and Lanceros were preferred among most consumers. Believe it or not, many years ago a 50-ring Rothschild was considered huge! However current production is largely driven by the American cigar consumer, which demands ever more variety in both thickness and length, making 50-ring vitolas commonplace. In fact, today we regularly see cigars boasting thick 58 and 60-ring frames and beyond.

We even see special figurados and "artisan" style cigars, such as Perfectos and Salomons which contain several different thicknesses throughout the 'barrel' of the cigar. These are extremely difficult to roll but deliver a unique concentration of flavour to the palate.

Cigar shapes

A cigar shape can vary greatly in size from brand to brand, so describing a cigar by its size as well as shape is important.



Ever wonder how cigars get their ratings?

Is a '92' rating cigar really that much better than a '88' rated cigar? Do people buy cigars based on their ratings?

The Cigar Aficionado Magazine is regarded as a world authority on cigar ratings, with their panel of experts using a set standard to judge a cigar. In the Cigar Aficionado Rating System, the following is a general rule of thumb:

- '90' or above signals something outstanding,
- anything '80' or above is very good to great,
- something in the 70's is fine to smoke, and
- anything below '70' isn't usually worth the bother.

The system reflected in our catalogue is based on the following criteria:

Appearance/Construction (15 points maximum)

Turns out your mom was only half right. You can't judge a book by its cover, but you can usually tell if it's something to be taken seriously or something cheaper designed for an afternoon on the beach. The 15-point rating here advocates that a cigar should have a smooth wrapper with no discernible flaws and a consistent colour and shape to earn maximum appearance points. To judge construction, hold it like you're about to take a puff. It should feel firm but not absolutely rigid, and give you a slight oily sensation. If it's dry and flaky, that's a sign the cigar has seen better days.

Smoking characteristics (25 points maximum)

This covers how well the cigar smokes, from the moment it's lit until you've taken that last draw. You want the cigar to light easily and burn evenly, and to feel comfortable in your mouth. If the cigar has too hard of a draw, if it doesn't burn evenly, or if it does anything else that makes it difficult to enjoy, points are deducted here.

Flavour (25 points maximum)

For a cigar to score high in the flavour category, it should have a smooth and rich taste that is consistently good throughout the smoke. The flavour itself may change over the course of the smoke, and some of the best ones do, but the quality should always be high. If it tastes bitter, take points away.

Overall impression (35 points maximum)

Simply put... how was it? Was it a great cigar smoking experience, or something less than you expected?

*"There are two things
a man never forgets:
his first love
and his first cigar."*

-John Bain





**ALEC BRADLEY
CONNECTICUT TORO** **450**

SIZE: DOBLES
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 152 MM
GAUGE: 50
RATING: NOT AVAILABLE
ORIGIN: HONDURAS

Mellow with flavour is the key here. The Connecticut seed wrapper presents a mellow creaminess, while the Honduran and Nicaraguan fillers provide that extra touch of flavour. Perfect for those who prefer a more mild offering.



**ALEC BRADLEY PRENSADO
GRAN TORO** **475**

SIZE: CORONA GORDA
BODY: FULL
LENGTH: 152 MM
GAUGE: 54
RATING: 92 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: HONDURAS

This richly coloured cigar is beautifully made and has a sweet and leathery flavour that turns toasty and nutty with a chocolate note.



**ALEC BRADLEY TEMPUS
MEDIUS 6** **450**

SIZE: CORONA GORDA
BODY: FULL
LENGTH: 152 MM
GAUGE: 52
RATING: 90 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: HONDURAS

Sweet and earthy with hints of black cherry and coffee, though there is a touch of chalkiness on the finish. The cigar has an open and even draw.



BOLIVAR TUBO NO. 1

375

SIZE: CORONA
BODY: FULL
LENGTH: 143 MM
GAUGE: 42
RATING: 82 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

A mild to medium body cigar. It has a very dry character, with some hints of wood.



COHIBA ESPLENDIDO

600

SIZE: CHURCHILL
BODY: MEDIUM TO FULL
LENGTH: 178 MM
GAUGE: 47
RATING: 93 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

The Cohiba Esplendido is perfectly named. This is truly a splendid cigar to smoke. It has great richness and full tobacco flavors, yet it retains a great class and finesse on the palate.



COHIBA ROBUSTO TUBO

675

SIZE: ROBUSTO
BODY: MEDIUM-FULL
LENGTH: 124 MM
GAUGE: 50
RATING: 89 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

There's a lot of tobacco packed into the head of this robusto, which results in a slightly firm draw. First puffs are bright and sweet with maple and French peanut notes, before a strong, spicy finish.



COHIBA SIGLO VI TUBO

875

SIZE: CORONA GORDA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 149 MM
GAUGE: 52
RATING: 93 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

This is a nutty smoke that imparts notes of almonds, graham cracker and rock candy. A touch of spicy cinnamon appears on the finish.



H. UPMANN CORONAS MAJOR TUBO

275

SIZE: PETIT CORONA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 127 MM
GAUGE: 42
RATING: 86 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A solid, medium-bodied smoke. The cigar has a firm draw. Some cedar qualities, with just a touch of spice. Strong earthy notes dominate hints of nuts and sweet spices.



HOYO DE MONTERREY EPICURE NO. 2

455

SIZE: ROBUSTO
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 124 MM
GAUGE: 50
RATING: 94 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

A rich and nutty cigar that leaves clear, profound impressions of honey and brown sugar on the palate along with a warm, toasty undertone all of which meld on the finish.



MONTECRISTO OPEN EAGLE 625

SIZE: CORONA GORDA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 149 MM
GAUGE: 54
RATING: 90 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

There are a few gnarly veins to the wrapper of this otherwise attractive cigar. It burns unevenly, but draws well offering a heady combination of savoury wood and nutty notes. The finish is sweet with marzipan and sassafras.



MONTECRISTO NO. 2 500

SIZE: FIGURADO
BODY: MEDIUM-FULL
LENGTH: 155 MM
GAUGE: 52
RATING: 92 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

A gorgeous torpedo that leaves bold, precise impressions of hickory, leather and earth, balanced by touches of peppermint and an oaky, chocolatey finish.



MONTECRISTO NO. 4 320

SIZE: PETIT CARONA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 129 MM
GAUGE: 42
RATING: 90 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

The Montecristo No.4 is full of flavor, warm and mellow when properly aged. The thin ring gauge means this is a very direct and rapid burn and its responsiveness does not wane as it burns. A rich and exciting blend like this needs some age to be at its best.



MONTECRISTO NO. 5

230

SIZE:	PETIT CORONA
BODY:	MEDIUM-FULL
LENGTH:	102 MM
GAUGE:	40
RATING:	92 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN:	CUBA

Big, meaty notes of leather and black pepper come off this little corona, which is draped in a reddish-brown wrapper. It's balanced by sweet impressions of nougat and a heavy almond finish.

*A good cigar is like tasting
a good wine. You smell it,
you taste it, you look at it, you
feel it, you can even hear it.*

It satisfies all the senses





OLIVA NUB CAMEROON 358 350

SIZE: ODD
BODY: MEDIUM-FULL
LENGTH: 95 MM
GAUGE: 58
RATING: 92 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: NICARAGUA

Short, squat and solidly rolled, this complex cigar is full of leather and sweet cedar balanced by nutty intonations and a vermouth finish.



**OLIVA NUB CONNECTICUT 400
460**

SIZE: ODD
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 102 MM
GAUGE: 60
RATING: 89 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: NICARAGUA

A stubby, veiny cigar with a light wrapper, this smoke starts off with a blast of spice before mellowing to a creamy, floral smoke.



OLIVA NUB MADURO 460 425

SIZE: ODD
BODY: MEDIUM-FULL
LENGTH: 102 MM
GAUGE: 60
RATING: 90 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: NICARAGUA

This dark, fat plug of a cigar has a rustic wrapper, but burns and draws evenly given its girth. Its sweet, medium-bodied flavour core is framed by lemon zest, charcoal notes and a nougat finish.

"Cigar smoking knows no politics. It's about the pursuit of pleasure, taste, and aroma."

- Author unknown





OLIVA NUB HABANO 460 400

SIZE: ODD
BODY: FULL
LENGTH: 102 MM
GAUGE: 60
RATING: 89 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: NICARAGUA

A short, fat plug of a cigar with an even, open draw. Initial notes of perfume become woody and sweet, before the dry, nutty finish.



**OLIVA SERIE V
DOUBLE ROBUSTO TUBO** 375

SIZE: ROBUSTO
BODY: MEDIUM-FULL
LENGTH: 127 MM
GAUGE: 54
RATING: 91 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: NICARAGUA

A nutty and spicy cigar that takes on a slight vanilla and clove sweetness. It's packed with tobacco but draws and burns evenly.



**PARTAGÁS CORONAS
SENIOR TUBO** 275

SIZE: CORONA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 127 MM
GAUGE: 42
RATING: 91 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

This corona's perfect draw leaves clear impressions of almond, orange peel and mocha on the palate before a long, earthy finish.



PARTAGÁS SERIE D NO. 4 455
TUBO

SIZE: ROBUSTO
BODY: MEDIUM-FULL
LENGTH: 124 MM
GAUGE: 50
RATING: 93 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

Complex layers of almond paste and citrus notes combine beautifully on the palate with floral elements, building to a rich, toasted almond finish.



PARTAGÁS SERIE E NO. 2 460

SIZE: CORONA GORDA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 140 MM
GAUGE: 54
RATING: 90 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

Wrapped in a veiny cover leaf, this is a primarily woody-tasting smoke balanced by secondary notes of earth, leather and espresso bean.



PARTAGÁS SERIE P NO. 2 455

SIZE: FIGURADO
BODY: FULL
LENGTH: 155 MM
GAUGE: 52
RATING: 93 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

Softly pressed with an oily Colorado wrapper, this pyramid is bready and oaky, balanced by sweet notes of vanilla, marzipan and a touch of earthy coffee.



ROMEO Y JULIETA 255
ROMEO NO. 2 TUBO

SIZE: PETIT CORONA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 130 MM
GAUGE: 42
RATING: 89 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

This sandy-coloured cigar starts to canoe as it burns, but eventually corrects itself. Flavours are toasty and coffee-like with touches of vanilla and leather.



ROMEO Y JULIETA 235
ROMEO NO. 3 TUBO

SIZE: PETIT CORONA
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 114 MM
GAUGE: 40
RATING: 89 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

This cigar burns evenly, exuding a cedary aroma. Wood and cedar flavours dominate, leaving earthy, leathery notes on the finish. Good strength for a Petit Corona.



ROMEO Y JULIETA 500
WIDE CHURCHILL

SIZE: ROBUSTO
BODY: MEDIUM
LENGTH: 206 MM
GAUGE: 55
RATING: 93 (BY CIGAR AFICIONADO)
ORIGIN: CUBA

The lush draw of this hefty robusto imparts a rich and heavy smoke laden with woody vanilla notes balanced by a floral element and fresh tobacco finish.

EXCLUSIVE COGNAC

Camus Extra Elegance 50ml 700

This complex, smooth texture has notes of dried violets, pastries, tobacco, leather and walnut, culminating in a pure velvet finish.

Martell Extra Creation Grand 50ml 670

Presents a fresh, fruity eaux-de-vie balance, from the growth areas of Borderies, France, combined with spice and almonds from the full spirits from the Grande Champagne.

Remy Martin XO 25ml 280

The myriad of aromas of floral, fruity and spicy tones filters through into a velvet texture and opulent density giving a superior mellow.

Hennessey XO 25ml 300

Darker and much more complex than VSOP, with appealing leather and tobacco notes and a touch of spice in great cigar cognac.

Remy Martin VSOP 25ml 110

The market leader and the reference for its pedigree and smooth taste.

Hennessey Privilège VSOP 25ml 110

Hennessey Privilège VSOP is a complex blend which reveals honeyed fruit flavours punctuated by delicate scents of cloves and cinnamon spice.



*“The one thing better than a great cognac,
is an even greater Cuban cigar to go with it.”*

- Devon Buy

*"Cognac and cigars, it's like
finding the perfect woman.*

*When you've got her, why
go chasing after another?"*

- Michael Nouvi, Actor

