

Tasting Method

To gather this unbiased feedback, we sent five different cigar shops across the country packages of 31 cigars re-banded with numbers. The shops smoked and evaluated every cigar and sent us back their notes. We collected their findings and took the characteristics that were common to the five panelists that generally described each cigar. Based on the descriptions, you can decide if the cigar sounds like something that would fit your taste.

Most of the cigars tasted here are traditional in shape. Today, however, there are countless cigars that hinder between classic design and size name. Cigars near to the traditional size may also be listed even though they have a different name.

Yet another classic cigar size, this one traditionally measured 6-6 1/2" x 40-42. The Lonsdale's namesake is the Earl of Lonsdale, Hugh Cecil Lowther, who commissioned the Cuban brand Rafaél González to create the size for him in the 1920s. This size is still produced by many cigar manufacturers today, both inside and outside of Cuba. Lonsdale cigars are very similar to Coronas; the major difference is that they are about an inch or so longer. Lonsdale cigars provide a chic smoking experience. Once you get one into your hand, a feeling of nobility is sure to follow.



Very dark, toothy wrapper. Great spicy, peppery, sweet tobacco taste and a large amount of blue/gray smoke. Complex with an unexpected creaminess. Medium to full bodied smoke. No defects, burn or draw issues. Excellent finish, overall this was an excellent smoke. Would recommend and smoke again.

Producer: J. C. Newman Cigar Co.
 Name: La Unica
 Size: #300, 6 3/4" x 44
 Origin: Dominican Republic
 Wrapper: Broadleaf Maduro



Wrapper had a very dark and oily feel. Excellent construction with a pigtail cap. Slightly sweet on the palate, medium to full bodied with a long rich finish. Good draw on this cigar with a very even burn. Well-balanced smoke. Nice white to gray ash. Great blend, great flavor, very complex - would highly recommend.

Producer: Xikar, INC
 Name: Defiance
 Size: Sentry, 6" x 46
 Origin: Nicaragua
 Wrapper: Nicaraguan Criollo



Very appealing look with an oily wrapper and some veins. There were several soft spots in various places of the cigar. Slightly uneven burn which had to be corrected numerous times throughout. Draw was ok, salty flavor but straightforward. Decent white and gray ash. Overall medium body.

Producer: Augusto Reyes
 Name: Nativo
 Size: Toro, 6" x 46
 Origin: Dominican Republic
 Wrapper: Dom. Rep. Criollo 98 Seed