

Compadres

C I G A R S

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE
WITH YOUR *Compadres*



Compadres Cigars is dedicated to an integration with the Dominican Republic cigar culture. All our cigars are made by hand in Tamboril, Dominican Republic using top-quality specialty tobacco blends. We value the charming lives of the Dominican men and women who show great affection for the cigar smoker.

With experience in the agriculture industry and my focus on imports and exports from Latin America, I have built a strong relationship with people in the Dominican Republic. My partner, Jose Suarez, gives Compadres Cigars an advantage by living in Villa González, a community known for premium tobacco growing. Jesse Felzien, our sales representative, is confident he can find one of our premium cigars to match anyone's flavor profile and as a lifelong cigar smoker he has expertise in the notes, strengths and flavors of all our products.

As both the manufacturer and importer of Dominican cigars, Compadres supports the growth of a culture. We want you to sit back, relax and enjoy the experience.

Spencer Woodard

Co-Founder, Compadres Cigars



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compadrescigars.com

A smokers guide

At Compadres we are always testing and tasting our cigars. Here are the comments of a group of cigar "aficionados". We gathered recently, smoking, chatting and enjoying each cigar in the Compadres range.



ROBUSTO

Connecticut Wrap, 50 X 5,
20 to 30 minute smoke.

"Light, airy start with a solid pull. Developing a sweet nutty flavor."

"Light to medium body flavor; maintaining a smooth mellow taste."

"Consistent medium body throughout. Smooth and flavorful until the end."



PETIT CORONA

Habana Wrap, 47 X 4.5, 15 to 25 minute smoke.

"Medium to full bodied, a nice punch for a small smoke."

"Develops a rich flavor while maintaining a smooth taste."

"Flavor continues to develop throughout."

A respite for a busy day."



MADURO TORPEDO

Habana Wrap, 52 X 6, 30 to 40 minute smoke.

"Dry, earthy flavor, a hint of espresso; light to medium pull; ash stays compact; flavor levels well when re-lighting."

"Hint of deep, smooth leather taste; retains it's smoothness throughout the smoke."

"Lights with a deep pull, a somewhat loose roll which creates a soft touch; produces an ash with black lines; reminiscent of your favorite uncle's library or perhaps a cowboy smoke; a pleasant smell to others."



to *Compadres cigars*



DOUBLE MADURO TORO

San Andres Wrap, 52 X 6, 30 to 40 minute smoke.

"A full body, earthy, chocolate taste with a hint of floral; strong, like a shot of espresso; not acidic, just a smooth tasteful smoke."

"Retains its richness, an even burn, heats nicely, and gets more earthy."

"Develops a deep robust flavor, consistent to the last puff."



BELICOSO

Habana Wrap, 52 X 5.25, 20 to 30 minute smoke.

"Sweet, earthy, slightly fruity which develops a smooth rich consistency; a perfectly balanced medium cigar which retains a stable flavor."

"Hint of deep, smooth leather taste; retains its smoothness throughout the smoke; burns evenly and retains its pull throughout."



GRAN CORONA

Habana Wrap, 60 X 6, 45 to 60 minute smoke.

"Medium body with hints of fullness, a silky-smooth smoke."

"Develops a rich earthy flavor while maintaining a smooth finish and pull."

"Burns evenly throughout, a delightful way to spend an hour."



CARDINAL

Corojo Wrap, 60 X 6.75, 40 to 60 minute smoke.

"Big billowy smoke, heavy overlay of dark chocolate and spice."

"Lights with an even burn and smooth pull."

Draws you in with an intense taste of dark spice, laced with a silky smooth and rich finish."

"A cigar you will not want to put down."



20 ROBUSTO

20 GRAN CORONA



padres
Elegant

Amphibious
Elegant

20 BELICOSOS

CIGAR COUNTRY



Compadres roots are deep in the tobacco fields of the Dominican Republic.
***Tasha Fabela-Jonas* explains the Compadres journey, the place, the people and the art of “enjoying the experience.”**



There are not a lot of rules when it comes to smoking cigars, except maybe one: Enjoy the experience.

The Dominican Republic holds a special place in the cigar industry. Although some people use cigars as a status symbol, in the Dominican Republic cigars are a way of life.

Dubbed as the "World Capital of Cigars," the municipality of Tamboril, houses more cigar factories and rollers than anywhere else in the world, and it's also where Compadres Cigars are made by hand.

"Cigars don't discriminate," says Spencer Woodard, of Kansas City, Missouri, and the co-founder of Compadres. "Everyone is intrigued with them."

Woodard has been in the agriculture industry for over 15 years, specializing in dairy and cheese. His focus on imports and exports primarily from Latin America helped him establish a relationship with the people of the Dominican Republic.

How it started

While working in the cheese industry, Woodard met Jose Suarez, a Cuban national, in



1980 and made his way to Kansas City in December of 1991.

"What we knew about cigars is that we liked them, and we wanted to explore that industry," Suarez said about his relationship with Woodard. "I had put some energy into the fruit business, but COVID happened, and then things got off balance. The people in the Dominican are fascinating people, everyone is family, and everyone is very proud of their cigars."

In 2019, GEO Foods sent Jose Suarez to set up shop and live in the Dominican Republic. His job as the "man-on-the-ground" was to immerse himself into the community and research the cigar culture.

"I call myself a relationship builder for Compadres," said Suarez. "I spend time in small towns, on small farms, bringing opportunities to the small man, the people doing their own things, so I get the best out of everyone."

Suarez lives in Villa González, a tobacco village northwest of Santiago known as one of the regions with rich soil that allows for premium tobacco growing. Suarez' wife, Fiordaliza, a Dominican native, knows about raw tobacco materials and how to process and make it last. If stored properly, the shelf life of cigars can be decades-long. Living in the community where tobacco is grown is key to being successful and



allows Suarez to be constantly involved in quality control and gives him an advantage when competing in the Dominican cigar industry.

A way of life

Many people who started with larger, mass-produced cigar companies left and went to work for smaller, more family-focused factories. Suarez thinks you get better quality cigars this way, people are happier, and you get more consistency when it comes to hand making the cigars. He said one thing is certain - the focus on community makes him feel like they belong to one human family.

Lack of education is common in the Dominican Republic. The Tobacco Institute of the Dominican Republic aims to improve living conditions by offering many services in the tobacco sector to the general public. A few of their services include: cigar making training, tobacco processing, seed conservation and distribution, tobacco fumigation, phytopathology analysis and land preparation.



Young cigar artisans that graduate from The Tobacco Institute's cigar manufacturing programs are encouraged to be artists at heart, so that they can continue to improve the quality of cigars with pride.

Jose Suarez likes to pair his cigars with coffee. "I love the part of the day when I can relax with a cigar. I can test the quality and feel the different oils, it's kind of spiritual to me," he said. "Each tobacco wrap has its own oil, when you light a cigar, the fire brings out the oil." After meeting Francy Santana, a Dominican national from Tamboril, the two formulated top-quality specialty tobacco blends. It was then that Compadres Cigars, now a division of GEO Foods, went from an idea to reality. Once the blends, shapes and sizes of the cigar line were finalized, Woodard and Suarez tested the cigars with veteran cigar smokers such as Jesse Felzien, who became a Compadres Cigars sales representative.

Jesse Felzien, a Kansas City native cigar smoker for over 20 years, cut his teeth out of college selling and distributing fight equipment and apparel specialized to the sports of boxing and mixed martial arts. He sold equipment domestically and internationally.

After meeting Woodard and Suarez, Felzien's previous unique experience in the fight business poised him to take the leap and venture into another unique "niche" market. That of the cigar wholesale salesperson.

"I find that the people that I did business with while in the fight world, compare closely to that of those I meet daily in the cigar business. Both industries are chalked full of real down-to-earth



colorful characters that offer an out of the norm interesting set of encounters, atmospheres, transactions and experiences all while in a very old school traditional person to person business setting."

"Just like in the sport of boxing, cigars offer up an ambiance and socialness not commonly experienced in other business settings. I'd liken it to this: an unique standard of likeminded people with likeminded ideas, tastes, interests, wants, needs, expectations and desires."

'Cigars are an artform'

"My go to everyday cigar is our Gran Corona. It's what I'd term the 'work horse' of our company. It's not too light, and it's not too dark. I'd say it's the porridge that is just right. The Toro Double Maduro has a compact roll that also affords the best aroma around while providing a smooth rich full-bodied flavor. Furthermore, I do thoroughly enjoy starting out my day with our flavored cigarillo line. In my opinion, it's a hidden gem we carry. I find the vanilla or cognac pairs the best with that first morning cup of coffee to start one's day off right.....and that is 'smoking'."

Demographics are ever changing, and today more women and younger people are enjoying cigars. The cigar company wants to set itself apart by educating the consumers more, by telling a story about how it's cigars are not



mass-produced.

Felzien wants to see Compadres Cigars in high demand and for companies to seek them out. Whatever your palate or preference might be, Felzien ensures he will find the cigar that best suits your needs and desires.

"In retrospect, in addition to their taste, I truly have to say the number one reason I love cigars so much is the mere opportunity it affords people to slow down from their hectic lives. To find a way, or provide one an excuse to calm



down, relax, savor the flavor and enjoy being around others that also enjoy cigars. In the end, cigars can often be the ultimate 'catalyst' to bring people together. Be those friends or strangers. I am both proud and confident that Compadres Cigars does just that."

Compadres Cigars can be compared to the craft beer industry. Just like beer and food, people want to know where their cigars come from. The company works with multiple organic tobacco farmers. It uses five tobacco blends. One of Compadres Cigars' most expensive, top of the line cigars, the Cardinal, uses tobacco that has been aged for four years.

All tobacco is not the same. The Dominican Republic's sunlight, rain and tropical climate helps make it a prime location for tobacco. There are about 28 tobacco producing areas in the Dominican Republic.

"The people from this land know the plant, they are familiar with the dirt and the climate," said Felzien. "It's a natural agricultural product here."

'The growth of a culture'

Compadres Cigars employs local Dominican rollers, people who take the dried tobacco leaves and hand roll cigars. Employees work while Latin music plays in the background at the factories. People can be seen smoking cigars while they work, enjoying the camaraderie and banter. Every component of each Compadres Cigar is chemical-free and contains no dyes. Even the labels are handmade. Speaking of labels, Compadres Cigars offers a private label program. Because the business is a low-key manufacturing venture, they can produce small batches of cigars, unlike the larger cigar companies. Compadres Cigars can put any logo on cigars, which makes any cigar-smoking moment even more special.



Like any business venture, learning from mistakes is beneficial. Climate can greatly affect tobacco, there's also the science and knowledge of transplanting the seeds that's involved in the farming process.

There are three key tobacco types grown in the Dominican: olor, piloto Cubano and San Vicente. Piloto is a tobacco seed originating from Cuba.

"A lot of Dominicans learned about cigars from



Cubans after they fled Cuba," Woodard said. The leaders at Compadres Cigars are constantly thinking of different sizes, shapes and blends they'd like to try in the future. Much like the world's finest chefs, cigar makers never really reveal what's in their tobacco blends. The carefully thought-out brand is currently thinking of introducing a whiskey cigar, with tobacco aged in whiskey.

"We are here for the growth of a culture."

Suarez said.

Compadres Cigars is breaking ground this year on a new factory in Villa Gonzalez after officially hitting the market in 2020. "One of the cool things about Compadres is that it's a joint effort," said Woodard.

"There's something with this partnership of three [Woodard, Suarez, and Felzien], bringing three different personalities together, each bringing different roles to the table. It's neat to see how the process trickles down to family in the Dominican."

The respect and affection the Dominican Republic people have for cigars and cigar smokers is what sets it apart from any other cigar producing country. Whatever your reason for smoking cigars, it always seems to be a good one. So, light, rotate, relax, and draw in that deep, smooth taste. Enjoy the experience.

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The Handmade Cigar Process

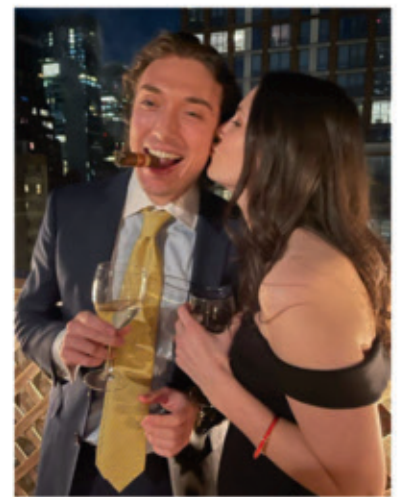
- Leaves are handpicked from mature tobacco plants, which can take up to 50 days to reach full height.
 - Leaves are hung and dried in curing huts, waiting until they turn brown or yellow in color.
 - Leaves are hand-sorted by color, size, and quality, then bundled and aged. Aging can take about two years, sometimes up to five years.
 - Filler leaves are usually grown in full sunlight, are heavy and thick. Filler leaves are picked from the top of a tobacco plant. Binder leaves are picked from the middle or top of the plant and burn evenly. Binder leaves are usually leaves that were rejected for wrapping. Wrapper leaves are grown in shade and are thin in quality and hold the most flavor. Wrapper leaves are usually picked from the bottom of the tobacco plant.
 - Filler leaves are hand-stripped of their main center vein. Leaf halves are then sorted by different grades and stored again inside bales for a second stage of fermentation.
 - Three to five tobacco filler leaf halves are put together to create a blend. (Compadres Cigars uses five leaves.)
 - The blend or "filler" is evenly distributed and held together by "binder" leaves.
 - The partial cigar is placed in a box press for about 40 minutes where a lid compresses the filler and binder to create that classic round cigar shape.
 - A round topped knife called a "chaveta" is used to trim excess filler and binder and is also used to trim the cigar to specific sizes.
 - A "wrapper" leaf is evenly rolled in a spiral around the pressed cigar, creating the final outer layer.
 - The ends of the cigar are sealed with a vegetable paste called "Goma."
 - The cigar is banded, or labeled and then placed in a humidor, packed and frozen for 48 hours before being distributed.
-







Moments to remember...



Compadres photo gallery



BUYERS GUIDE



GRAN CORONA

60 x 6

- Wrap: Habana
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- Box of 20
- 4 Pack
- Bundle of 25



BELICOSO

52 x 5.25

- Wrap: Habana
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- Box of 20
- Bundle of 25



DOUBLE MADURO TORO

52 x 6

- Wrap: San Andres
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- Box of 20
- 4 Pack
- Bundle of 25



ROBUSTO

50 x 5

- Wrap: Connecticut
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- Box of 20
- 4 Pack
- Bundle of 25





PETIT CORONA

47 x 4.5

- Wrap: Habana
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- 4 Pack
- Bundle of 25



MADURO TORPEDO

52 X 6

- Wrap: Habana
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- Box of 20
- 4 Pack
- Bundle of 25



CARDINAL BOX PRESS

60 x 6.75

- Wrap: Corojo
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- Box of 10



CARDINAL PERFECTO

60 x 6

- Wrap: Corojo
- Origin: Dominican Republic
- Box of 10



BUYERS GUIDE



CALL OUR SALES REPRESENTATIVES

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Are you looking for Private
Label branded cigars?

Call us!
We supply clubs,
restaurants, golf courses,
retail outlets and
corporations with unique
branded products



ROBUSTO COGNAC

50 x 5

■ Bundles of 25



DOMINICAN BLANKS

60 x 6; 50 x 5; 52 x 6

■ Bundles of 25



CIGARILLOS

■ Box of 10

Vanilla
Cherry
Cognac
Chocolate
Espresso
Variety



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