

Knickerbocker Knews

Premium Cigars, Pipes and Pipe Tobaccos



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CRA
CIGAR RIGHTS OF AMERICA
FIGHT FOR YOUR
RIGHT TO ENJOY CIGARS

Happy New Year!!!

As we all set out to celebrate this New Year, I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy time. I thank all of you for your support this last year and look forward to a bright and happy new year for all.

We are all bonded together by our love of the tobacco leaf. Because of this bond we share an extended "family" and have enjoyed time together over smokes as well as fought numerous tobacco tax battles together. As we still work on the current tax issue, SCHIP, know that there are many people and millions of dollars working hard for us and our "family" to keep us together smoking the best products our industry has to offer with as minimal a tax increase as possible.

As I am sure you have heard me say before, if not for you, we would not be here. I mean that sincerely, this is not just something I say; this is the cornerstone of my business philosophy. I hope you feel as if you have been treated like one of the "family". Treated with the utmost respect and courtesy, because you are a part of the family, like it or not!

So again, I wish you all a Happy New Year! Whether you are new to the "family" or have been a long time member, I raise my glass to you this New Years Eve and hope to see you all throughout 2009. ~Bill

Cigar Knews

CRA - Cigar Rights of America: There is a war against cigar enthusiasts everywhere. Cigar Rights of America has been formed to fight unjustified tax increases and halt smoking bans. For years, cigar enthusiasts have been trampled on by all levels of government. With increasing risk of further local, State and Federal government intervention, now is the time for the cigar community to UNITE and have a powerful voice to protect our rights.

Forty-eight states in America have enacted cigar taxes. Some states have gone as far as taxing cigars at a rate of 80%. Currently, the entire cigar industry is threatened by the Federal Government's State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) that threatens to increase the Federal cigar tax by as much as 6,000% (no this is not a typo). If it weren't for President Bush's veto of the bill proposed by the House and Senate last fall, you would currently be paying exorbitantly high prices for the cigars you enjoy so much and nearly every cigar shop in America would have been forced out of business. The proposed bill, which will tax cigars to fund SCHIP, is not dead yet. After the upcoming 2008 November election, the House and Senate will again attempt to increase the Federal tax on cigars to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Plan.

In addition to a tax increase on cigars, regularly introduced anti-smoking legislation has made it close to impossible for cigar enthusiasts to enjoy cigars. In many states, you are not allowed to enjoy a cigar at your local restaurant or bar. Cities around America are now proposing bans which will, if enacted, stop you from enjoying a cigar outside of public buildings. Who would have thought that the day would come when you cannot legally enjoy a cigar walking down the beach or sitting in your local park?

To learn more about the CRA, go to www.cigarrights.org.

Knew Italian Pipes by Fe.ro

Northwest of Milan, between Lake Varese and the highest mountain in Italy, Sacro Monte, lays the city of Varese, home of the Federico Rovera pipe factory. Brothers Federico, Francesco, Cornelio, and Carlo started manufacturing pipes in 1911. In 1949, Federico with the help of his sons founded Figli di Federico Rovera, which is currently the second largest pipe manufacturer in Italy. It is still a family owned business, run by Marina Rovera-Gazzaniga and her husband Enos Gazzaniga.



Central Italian briar from the Tuscany region is used exclusively in their pipe production. Briar burl is a part of the white heath tree. It grows between the roots and the above ground tree. Burls harvested for Fe.Ro pipes must be 50 or more years old. They are cut into blocks, and then boiled in water for up to 20 hours. This process removes all sap, resin, acid and other flavor distorting constituents.

Over the course of years, the supply of briar from various regions changes characteristics. Central Italian briar, at present, has richer grain than briars harvested in other parts of the country. While smoking characteristics may be the same regardless of grain, it is the visual and esthetic properties of the end product that prompt the Roveras to keep making a bigger initial investment in raw materials in order to have a superior finished product.



Once the blocks arrive at the factory, they are placed in the drying warehouse for a minimum of six months. They are air dried as opposed to kiln or oven drying used by some of the other manufacturers. This time consuming process results in a sweeter, dryer, better smoking pipe in general.

Grading of raw briar blocks is done to internationally recognized standards. There are 3 main classes with 2 subcategories and 5 size groups. Fe.Ro uses only high grade (Extra) blocks. Further grading takes place internally during the manufacturing process. This means that even a less expensive pipe by Fe.Ro carries the heritage of a high grade briar.

Turning a raw block of briar into a finished pipe involves 40 to 50 steps, depending on the finish. The block in the hand of a pipe maker undertakes a long journey through a variety of working tools.

These processes involve turning, wood shaping, drilling, tooling, sanding, and staining. Even the mouthpiece has to be shaped to fit each individual pipe. All of the "Extra" grade pipes are finished using Brazilian Carnauba wax. It has a deeper and more permanent gloss than bee's or other waxes.

The employees are accomplished in the skills required for creating a pipe from beginning to end. The factory uses not only some proprietary tools designed and created on site, but also implements certain proprietary components such as nylon tenons and color matched mastics. This combination of quality and looks delivers a superior product available only from Figli di Federico Rovera.

Come see some of the fine pipes by Fe.ro at the "Menlo Park Pipe Station".



Pipe Club??

Interested in joining a Pipe Club??

Olde Knickerbockers is thinking about starting a Pipe Club that would meet at the shop on a Saturday afternoon, each month.

We can discuss various topics, such as: New & Old Pipes, Pipe Tobaccos and Blending of Pipe Tobaccos, How pipes are made and how to recognize pipes by markings.

Let us know what you think!!

Relax with your pipe



Employee Reviews

Ashton, Virgin Sun Grown (VSG) – 5 1/2” x 50 Robusto

If you like spice in a cigar, then the Ashton VSG line is for you! This Robusto sized cigar is an absolutely outstanding cigar which offers a primary focus on pepper with a soothing undertone of sweetness. Even the aroma is balanced, with a spicy and slightly peppery scent that accentuates its lively nature. There is no let-up in taste until the last third, when the flavor becomes even a bit more powerful, but always well controlled and never overpowering. ~ Dan



Drew Estate, Chateau Real – 6” x 50 Belicoso Favorita

Drew Estates first attempt at a “traditional” cigar. Known for their Acids and Flavored cigars, this is a good lead into the established cigar world.

A very nice even color throughout the Ecuadorian Connecticut Shade wrapper, with little veins and no real noticeable imperfections in its build. I would say mild to medium in strength. The flavor was a mix of toasty-woody-nutty flavors with a little more earthiness and sweetness to it. I had heard good things about this cigar and was still surprised by the complexity of the flavors. A bit light for my taste, but still a cigar that I would smoke earlier in the day ~ Dan



SALE! Porsche Design Lighters & Pouches

Bill is doing it again!!!!

Knickerbockers is offering a special discount of **20%** on all our Porsche Design Lighters and Leather Cases.

Porsche Design Lighters are created of the finest qualities and imported from Germany. The timeless style and ingenious engineering have resulted in a line of lighters that remain sleek, functional and timelessly elegant. All Porsche Design Lighters carry a 3 year warranty.

- PD4 Series - The singular appearance of the PD4 lighter is provided by the striking rib structure, which also makes handling extremely safe. A piezo ignition fires a laser micro-torch flame which can hold up to even the strongest winds. The PD4 has a fuel-level window which shows how much fuel is in the Trogamid high-tech tank.
- PD2 Series - The PD2 is a traditional, compact and elegant flint lighter from Porsche Design. Emitting a 45 degree angled flame via a side roller bar ignition, the PD2 is ideal for pipe and cigar lighting. A spare flint compartment is built into the PD2's solid brass case.

Please check with our sales staff to see the many different Porsche Design Lighters that we have in stock...

