

Choosing A Cigar As A Gift

Is there a cigar lover on your gift list? Or are you simply curious about how to choose a decent cigar for one of your friends or loved ones? The good news is that even those who know nothing about cigars or about choosing a great cigar can learn these few simple tips on how to sniff out (sometimes literally) a good cigar for your friend or relative.

In case you haven't noticed, cigars have now entered mainstream culture. While the use of cigars was once the symbol of the rich and powerful, it's now completely acceptable and affordable for just about anyone to purchase a good cigar. This doesn't mean, however, that you will be able to buy your friend a box of top-tier Cuban cigars. Instead, you can feel comfortable that you are buying a good quality cigar that will put a smile on your friend's face.

The first tip involves visiting your local tobacconist or specialty smoke shop for the highest quality and widest selection of cigars. Avoid buying cigars from the drugstore or grocery store. While they may be inexpensive and convenient to purchase, these cigars are usually filled with preservatives and are generally of poorer quality than those you'll find at a specialty shop. Drugstore cigars may contain saltpeter, paper, glycerin, and other preservatives and irritants. When you visit the tobacco shop, you should ask to purchase only those cigars that are made of 100% tobacco. If you're inexperienced about the ingredients in cigars, feel free to ask the salesperson. An experienced and knowledgeable sales clerk will understand the merchandise and will be able to tell you whatever you need to know about a cigar's ingredients.

The best place to look for cigars is at your local tobacco shop. At these places, you will generally be allowed to smell and touch the cigars. Begin by squeezing the cigar gently. If the cigar gives a little when squeezed, it is a sign you're handling a good quality cigar. The cigar should be firm and should contain no spots which are excessively soft or hard, avoid buying a lumpy cigar.

Make sure you look at the wrapper. If you notice any drying or discoloration of the cigar, it would be best not to purchase that one. Ideally, the wrapper should be smooth and wrapped tightly around the cigar. Inspect the color of the tobacco. Make sure that the color is even throughout the length of the cigar. You can do this by inspecting the end of the cigar. Some variability in color is acceptable; however, if the color changes widely, it is likely that the cigar wasn't rolled correctly. When you smoke a cigar has not been rolled correctly, you may end up with uneven burning and an unpleasant smell.

If you're not sure if your friend is a heavy or light cigar smoker, it's best to choose a longer cigar. Longer cigars often have a 'cooler' taste and are an excellent choice for beginners. If your friend is an expert on cigars and regular smoker, choose a cigar that is of a thicker diameter. Thicker cigars often display richer flavor which is greatly appreciated by the most experienced smokers.

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About the Author

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