A Brief History of Cohiba

In 1492, during Columbus' first voyage to the "new world", he visited the island of Cuba. His sailors were introduced to a plant called "Cohiba" by the Taino Indians, native to the island. The dried leaves were smoked in a pipe and the literal translation of the Taino dialect word Cohiba became what we know as Tobacco.

Fidel Castro started the Cohiba brand in the 1960’s which were privately rolled by the cigar artisan Eduardo Ribera. Castro’s personal size was what we now call the Cohiba Corona Especiales. In 1968, Cubatobaco formally launched the Cohiba brand however, the cigars were reserved only for Castro, his top government officials, and diplomats.

In 1982, three types of Cohiba Cuban cigars were introduced to non-diplomats: the Lanceros, the Coronas Especiales and the Panatelas. Three more vitolas were added to the brand in 1989: the Esplendidos, the Robustos and the Exquisitos, completing what is known as "La Linea Clasica".

Five more vitolas were added in 1992 creating the "Linea 1492": the Siglo I, II, III, IV and V. In the summer of 2003, the Siglo VI was introduced in response to the trend of thicker cigars. Its size, formally known as the cañonazo or “cannon shot”, paved the way for a wave of new Cuban models including the Montecristo Edmundo, Trinidad Robusto Extra and the Romeo Y Julieta Wide Churchill.
In 2007, Cuba launched the Maduro 5 sub-category to compete in the growing market for darker, more full-flavored tobacco. The 3 sizes, the Genios, Magicos and Secretos, have been some of the highest rated maduros in all the world.

Following a limited release of 100 hand-crafted humidors to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Cohiba brand in 2006, the Cohiba Behike sub-category was established as the most luxurious Cuban cigars ever produced.

With the BHK 52, BHK 54, and BHK 56 cigar lovers were, for the first time, introduced to the complexity and unique flavor of the scarce Medio Tiempo leaf, the two very top leaves of the sun-grown tobacco plants.

As only the finest tobacco leaves are used to create the various types of Cohiba cigars, Cohiba remains the “King of the Cubans”.

Try our selection of authentic Cohiba cigars.
Cohiba Models – Excluding Edicion Limitadas

Cohiba Behike 52

The Behike line from Cohiba was hands down the most anticipated release the public had ever experienced. Adding the Medio Tiempo leaf that appears from time to time at the very top of the tobacco plant to this incredible blend gave cigar smokers something they haven't experienced since 1962 when the leaf's use was cancelled.

Anyone wanting to experience a rich bomb of dark explosive flavors was instead given a whole new sensation when they were finally able to smoke the Behike 52. Sweet coffee, gingerbread, vanilla, milk chocolate, subtle toasted coconut, all blended together with cedar and toasted tobacco. Cigar Aficionado giving it their top pick of the year only fanned the flames of passionate Cuban cigar lovers’ need to get their hands on them and then the waiting lists started to appear at every cigar shop dealing in authentic Cuban cigars.

Fast forward a few years and now, since the dust has finally settled, we are able to find them and taste something very special. An incredible cigar when young, sweet and satisfying. A few years of aging will see them mature into a very special occasion cigar.

Factory Vitola: Laguito No. 4
Ring Gauge: 52
Cigar Length: 119 mm / 4.7 inches
Body: Medium

Cohiba Behike 54

The blend of tobacco leaves in the Cohiba Behike 54, which include the Medio Tiempo leaf found at the top of Cuban tobacco plants, delivers slightly more powerful flavors than the Behike 52.
Although still a sweet cigar, this 54 ring gauge vitola will reveal darker chocolate, stronger coffee notes, leather, cedar, vanilla and a subtle herbal flavor profile that the Behike is now becoming famous for. Ask anyone who has smoked all three Behikes and many will say that this is their favourite. Ask someone else with the same passion for high quality Cuban cigars and you may get a different report. One thing is guaranteed however, aficionados are very, very passionate about the Behike line; at this point it’s a choice between a Mercedes or a BMW.

Factory Vitola: Laguito No. 5
Ring Gauge: 54
Cigar Length: 144 mm / 5.7 inches
Body: Medium-Full

**Cohiba Behike 56**

The largest in the Behike trinity at a sizeable 56 ring gauge and 6 1/2 inches long, will satisfy those who are ready to finally taste this complex, impeccable blend of aged tobaccos which deliver a large powerful statement about the state of the cigar industry in Cuba today. Where the other two Behike siblings take you in a rich experience of flavors as they enter their final third, the Behike 56, also constructed with the inclusion of the medio tiempo leaf, will start there and catapult your senses further down the road to an even more complex and diverse Cuban cigar smoking experience.

Think dim lights, dark oak walls, rich leather and a weighty beverage to pair with a cigar of this stature. Although this large cigar is never harsh, it is not for the faint of heart or someone new to the passion of cigar smoking who is expecting a mellow introduction, which is where the Behike 52 shines. This Alpha male older brother is in charge of sending a louder message. A must try!

Factory Vitola: Laguito No. 6
Ring Gauge: 56
Cigar Length: 166 mm / 6.5 inches
Body: Full
**Cohiba Corona Especiales**

This is one of the first Cohibas marketed in 1982 when the smoker on the street was suddenly able to purchase cigars usually only available to diplomats.

With a 38 ring gauge and almost 6 inches of length, this size has stood the test of time and many today still consider this elegant slim cigar to be one of the finest Cohiba has to offer. This blend, from Cuba's finest tobacco, is balanced and rich, giving you a more complex smoking experience than many Cuban cigars you will experience.

You'll initially taste Cohiba's grassy herbal flavor profile but a spicy bean medley of chocolate, vanilla and coffee will make its presence known. As you enter your first third, these flavors continue evolving into rich dark honey and woody notes as this cigar comes to a crescendo.

- Popular Vitola: Palma
- Factory Vitola: No.2
- Ring Gauge: 38
- Cigar Length: 152 mm / 5.9 inches
- Body: Medium

**Cohiba Esplendidos**

In 1989 the Esplendidos was added to the Cohiba line and the cigar took the world by storm. Cohiba gets first pick from Cuban tobacco harvested annually and with its incredible blend, this cigar delivers a complex flavor profile that gives cigar lovers a never ending roller coaster of ever evolving flavors.

One minute you'll be experiencing an herbal grassy taste and the next you'll be amazed at the coffee and chocolate notes which appear. Spice is also something you can expect with this Julieta No. 2, although never harsh, you'll notice that there is a white pepper sensation which accompanies the many notes you'll taste. After smoking many Cuban cigars you'll find that the Cohiba spice is what you'll identify first upon lighting.
Quite often in cinema and, now music videos, you'll see an Esplendidos as a recognizable prop in the hands of those wishing to appear successful, it is simply one of the world's finest cigars.

Popular Vitola: Churchill  
Factory Vitola: Julieta No.2  
Ring Gauge: 47  
Cigar Length: 178 mm / 6.9 inches  
Body: Medium – Full

**Cohiba Exquisitos**

At one eighth of an inch short of 5 inches long, and a 36 ring gauge, the Exquisitos is a milder Cohiba with medium bean flavors. This means that you'll be able to detect slight vanilla, chocolate and coffee flavors even in this smaller cigar format. The cigar will start off being quite mild but as you enter your second half you'll taste more spice, cedar and the bean flavors become more present. Expect an hour of smoking time, perfect after lunch with coffee.

Popular Vitola: Petit Palma  
Factory Vitola: Seonae  
Ring Gauge: 35  
Cigar Length: 125 mm / 4.9 inches  
Body: Medium – Full

**Cohiba Maduro 5 Genios**

The Maduro Series from Cohiba uses leaves from the upper part of the Tobacco plant which have been aged for 5 years. This aging technique has resulted in a dark wrapper leaf used for this cigar, the largest of the Cohiba release in 2007.

The Genios, at 5 1/2 inches long and a ring gauge of 52 and with its rich and dark flavor profile, offers complexity and a true evolution of flavors. In this case, you'll taste a darker chocolate, a darker coffee, and a spicy woody flavor that, in a lot of ways, mimics the more expensive and
rare limited edition Cohiba cigars but at an affordable price for a cigar of this quality. The Cohiba Genios is definitely a cigar to pair with a single malt or a sherry after a heavy meal.

Ring Gauge: 52
Cigar Length: 140 mm / 5.5 inches
Body: Medium – Full

**Cohiba Lanceros**

This is a cigar that will perform time after time; in fact this may be the most consistent cigar that Cuba produces. A creamy grassy cold draw before lighting and then that Cohiba spice will appear as soon as the cigar is lit.

Take your time with this Lanceros, when the cigar's flame is allowed to stay cool you'll experience a wide variety of flavors including coffee, sweet hay and a nuttiness that has been the mainstay of many Cohiba smokers who especially love this size of cigar.

In 1982, when this cigar was finally introduced to the public, many were able to experience what only diplomats and heads of state would receive as diplomatic gifts. Many would maintain that this Cohiba was the favourite of Fidel Castro and although he probably lit many of these great cigars, it was the Coronas Especiales that he smoked.

Popular Vitola: Palma Larga
Factory Vitola: No.1
Ring Gauge: 38
Cigar Length: 193 mm / 7.5 inches
Body: Medium - Full
**Cohiba Maduro 5 Magicos**

The Cohiba Magicos, with its 4 1/2 inch length and 52 ring gauge, delivers some of the finest dark flavors that this 2007 series is known for. The 5 year fermentation of the wrapper leaves for these cigars has resulted in a Maduro that is dark, slightly toothy, and oily.

Those searching for Cohiba's herbal and grassy flavor profile will be surprised when lighting this hefty little cigar since this is more of an earthy flavor profile mixed with dark espresso and chocolate notes. Some spice will enter the picture, and sweet cedar and toasted tobacco are ever present, but this Maduro series has a unique Cohiba taste all of its own.

Ring Gauge: 52  
Cigar Length: 115 mm / 4.5 inches  
Body: Medium – Full

**Cohiba Panatelas**

This is the smallest of the three cigars that Cohiba introduced to the public in 1982, which is now referred to as the Linea Clasica (classic line).

With a 26 ring gauge and only 4 1/2 inches long, this Panetela will deliver volumes of full bodied smoke which are balanced, elegant and full of cream and honey. The signature classic Cohiba herbal first third, with it's spice and bean flavors, becomes a bomb of leather and cedar into the final third, suggesting that even the small amount of tobacco used in this blend is of the finest quality and capable of delivering surprising complexity.

Popular Vitola: Mini-Panetela  
Factory Vitola: No.3  
Ring Gauge: 26  
Cigar Length: 115 mm / 4.5 inches  
Body: Medium – Full
Cohiba Robusto

This has been the finest Robusto out of Cuba since it was introduced in 1989, plain and simple. Initially you’ll be impressed with the caramel coloured wrapper, triple cap and construction; much care is taken to blend and roll this Robusto and it is a remarkably consistent cigar.

The age of this cigar can determine the smoking experience. A younger Cohiba Robustos can be a very complex and evolving cigar with sweeter notes of milk chocolate, fresh hay and spice. A cigar after 5 years or more of aging will have the same spice but more that of cedar and a darker chocolate, all the while burning very evenly with a stubborn white ash.

Either way, fresh or aged, the Cohiba Robustos continues to thrill those who love a roughly 5 inch, 50 ring gauge cigar and hopefully Cohiba will be able to produce these great cigars for decades to come.

Popular Vitola: Robusto
Factory Vitola: Robustos
Ring Gauge: 50
Cigar Length: 124 mm / 4.8 inches
Body: Medium – Full

Cohiba Maduro 5 Secretos

This, the smallest of the Maduro 5 Series introduced in 2007, comes with a wrapper aged for 5 years. The dark wrapper gives this small cigar richness and, to a degree, flavors reminiscent of the notes which are present in the rarely rolled and distributed Cohiba Limited Edition cigars.

Expect close to an hour of smoking time beginning with a sweet dark coffee and ending with mocha and toasted tobacco. The Cohiba spice is present in the Maduro 5 series though not as pronounced as in the "Linea Clasica".

Ring Gauge: 40
Cigar Length: 110 mm / 4.3 inches
Body: Medium - Full
Cohiba Siglo I

This is not a meek and mild cigar in the Cohiba Siglo Series. A regular firecracker but, along with all its attitude, the Siglo I has a balanced blend of flavors from a pleasant grassiness to a caramel, woody, black pepper finish.

This little Perlas was introduced in 1994 and is presented in boxes of 25 or in new, premium style, aluminum tubes. This is another very consistent Cohiba with a great draw and flawless construction. A great after lunch cigar which should give you close to 40 minutes of smoking time.

Popular Vitola: Demi Corona
Factory Vitola: Perlas
Ring Gauge: 40
Cigar Length: 102 mm / 4.0 inches
Body: Medium

Cohiba Siglo II

This Mareva is one of the milder cigars distributed by Cohiba. Present is the Cohiba spice with an herbal smoking experience in the beginning, while building into a sweet creamy honey smoke as the cigar burns.

This premium Cuban blend offers a balanced flavor profile, perfectly fitted for the novice smoker who wishes to sample one of Cuba's great mid-size cigars. Introduced in 1994 as part of the Siglo Line, this Cohiba is rolled with the finest leaves harvested from the Vuelta Abajo region of Cuba. This is another example of a first rate "middle of the day" cigar, easily enjoyed with coffee or Cuban Rum.

Popular Vitola: Petit Corona
Factory Vitola: Marevas
Ring Gauge: 42
Cigar Length: 129 mm / 5.0 inches
Body: Medium
Cohiba Siglo II Tubos

This perfectly blended, mild Mareva from Cohiba's Siglo line is a great example of Cuba's finest tobacco leaves from the Vuelta Abajo region rolled up into a perfect cigar for the novice smoker wishing to experience a medium strength cigar any time of day.

The new premium style aluminum tube protects this cigar from getting damaged during transport from your home to the golf course or if you're simply tossing it into a jacket pocket for later on into the evening.

Popular Vitola: Petit Corona
Factory Vitola: Marevas
Ring Gauge: 42
Cigar Length: 129 mm / 5.0 inches
Body: Medium

Cohiba Siglo III

This cigar, as part of the Linea 1492 introduced in 1992, was an event scheduled to commemorate the anniversary of Columbus landing in the new world.

Using the finest tobacco leaves from the Vuelta Abajo region, Cohiba has given those new to the cigar passion a great mild to medium strength cigar. An herbal, earthy first third with a hint of vanilla is only the beginning of some of the flavor notes you should experience as this cigar burns. Like the Siglo II, this is another sweet and creamy cigar in the Cohiba Siglo line. The construction of this Corona Grande is consistent and the burn razor sharp.

Popular Vitola: Corona
Factory Vitola: Coronas Grandes
Ring Gauge: 42
Cigar Length: 155 mm / 6.0 inches
Body: Medium
Cohiba Siglo IV

A slightly milder version of the Cohiba Robustos, this Corona Gorda is nutty, creamy and full of earthiness. Complexity is a description seasoned smokers will use when describing this hour and a half smoking experience with elegant notes of walnuts, sweet earthiness, all seasoned with a mild spice.

The cigar tends to evolve into a more medium strength smoke into the second half as it starts to deliver notes of cedar, toasted tobacco and coffee with cream. The fact that Cohiba will take their seco and ligero leaves and add a third fermentation process by aging these leaves in barrels, shows you Cohiba's commitment by going the extra distance to deliver Cuba's finest cigars.

Popular Vitola: Corona Gorda
Factory Vitola: Coronas Gordas
Ring Gauge: 46
Cigar Length: 143 mm / 5.6 inches
Body: Medium

Cohiba Siglo V

Coming in at 6.6 inches and a 43 ring gauge, this Cohiba Siglo V is considered by many to be one of Cohiba's finest cigars. Mild spice, herbal and loaded with bean flavors is the best way to describe the flavor profile of this Lonsdale shaped cigar.

There is nothing harsh about the Siglo V. The many flavors present in the first third gently give way to a medium strength delivery of leather and moist earth as the cigar comes to an end. This is one of the more elegant cigars Cohiba produces with a balanced blend, beautiful aroma and tremendous aging potential.

Popular Vitola: Lonsdale
Factory Vitola: Dalias
Ring Gauge: 43
Cigar Length: 170 mm / 6.6 inches
Body: Medium
Cohiba Siglo VI

Originally released in 2002 as part of the 10th Anniversary of the Linea 1942 or Siglo line, the Siglo VI was the first Cohiba to feature the new Gold embossed lettering on the Cohiba label. One of Cuba's highest rated cigars in flavor, construction and consistency, cigar critics worldwide have been writing about the Siglo VI's tobacco blend since this cigar was launched.

Smokers in search of a more complex cigar and who prefer a larger ring gauge (in this case 52) will notice a sweet hay, spice and vanilla taste as this cigar opens up into its first third. This Canonazo moves effortlessly towards full flavor without ever becoming overpowering and the second half delivers notes of honey with sweet woods. This is a special occasion cigar, one that should be smoked and experienced but also one which should be aged to realize its full potential.

Popular Vitola: Canonazo
Factory Vitola: Canonazo
Ring Gauge: 52
Cigar Length: 150 mm / 5.9 inches
Body: Medium – Full

Cohiba Siglo VI Tubos

Cohiba introduced the Siglo VI in 2002 but only since 2008 have we seen these cigars also delivered in the new premium style aluminum tubes. This cigar is consistently rated as one of the top 3 Cuban cigars today with its incredible blend, impeccable consistency and flawless construction. A 52 ring gauge cigar that delivers notes of spice, honey, sweet hay and bean flavors. Because of the presence of the thin Spanish cedar lining, aging these cigars in their tubes has resulted in positive results. This special occasion cigar, year after year, has proven to be deserving of all of the praise it receives from smokers worldwide.
To celebrate the 35th anniversary of this legendary Cuban cigar brand, Habanos S.A (Cuba) released 500 special edition humidors back in 2002.

The Cohiba brand started production in 1968 and is likely the most renowned tobacco product on the planet. That distinction was earned, among other reasons, by being the gift of Cuban leaders to other world leaders in Cuba and abroad.

The vitolas (cigars sizes), are all dressed to impress with a special cigar band created solely for this 35th anniversary edition. Included are 35 Cohiba Lanceros, 20 Cohiba Espléndidos, 20 Cohiba Robustos, 20 Siglo V and two unique Cohiba sizes (20 Gran Coronas) and (20 Piramides) that have only been included in this edition and will never be mass produced again.

The humidor itself is a thing of beauty with its handmade cedar construction, bird's-eye maple finish, and a hand-crafted inlay presenting the Cohiba brand logo on top.
Cohiba X Anniversary Linea 1492 Humidor

The Linea 1492 or Siglo Series was expressly created in 1992 in order to celebrate the fifth centennial of the discovery of tobacco in Cuba by Christopher Colombus. In 2002, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of this line, Cohiba, which has always been in the front line of new developments and special series, presented a commemorative Humidor.

With a limited production of 500 units, each case contains a full selection of the Linea 1492: Siglo I, II, III, IV and V, in addition to the new Siglo VI. All of these cigars, made with the best selection of tobacco, are presented with an exclusive band, specially created for the occasion.

The Cohiba Siglo VI was presented for the first time in this commemorative Humidor.

Cohiba X Anniversary Siglo I

Cohiba X Anniversary Siglo II
Cohiba X Anniversary Siglo III

Cohiba X Anniversary Siglo IV

Cohiba X Anniversary Siglo V

Cohiba X Anniversary Siglo VI
From Habanos:

Cohiba is the flagship brand of Habanos.

It was created in 1966 for President Fidel Castro himself and was made at the then top secret but now world famous El Laguito factory. At first, it was only seen outside Cuba as gifts for heads of state and visiting diplomats.

Since 1982 Cohiba has been available in limited quantities to the open market.

The name is an ancient Taino Indian word for the bunches of tobacco leaves that Columbus first saw being smoked by the original inhabitants of Cuba — the earliest known form of the cigar.

The leaves for Cohiba are the “selection of the selection” from the five finest Vegas Finas de Primera in the San Juan y Martinez and San Luis zones of the Vuelta Abajo region.

Uniquely amongst Habanos, two of Cohiba’s filler leaves, the seco and ligero, undergo a third fermentation in barrels, which adds smoothness to the blend.
There are two distinct Lineas (Lines) of Cohiba: the medium to full flavored Linea Clasica introduced between 1966 and 1989; and the medium flavored Linea 1492 brought out in 1992 to mark the 500th Anniversary of Columbus’s epic voyage of discovery. Ten years later in 2002, a new size, the Siglo VI, was added to the Linea 1492.
All sizes of Cohiba are "totalmente a mano, trip a larga" — totally hand made, long filler.

Flavor Ranking: Medium to Full (Línea Clásica) and Medium (Línea 1492).
Vancouver Cigar Company’s Cigar Review Feature

Now you can join the Vancouver Cigar Community and share your thoughts about your favorite Cohiba cigars on our site with other fellow Cuban cigar smokers.

So how can you start reviewing cigars?

For example:

You decide that you want to tell everyone how you really feel about Cohiba Corona Especiales.

1. Simply click the appropriate cigar brand (example: Cohiba) from the left sidebar under ‘Cigars by brand’.
2. Click on the cigar Reviews button displayed below - this can be found under the price of the cigar.

3. Add your review, your name and your email and press 'Submit Review'.

That's it.

Our staff will read through your review and approve it within 24 hours. Each review must be approved to make sure no one is abusing the system. Now you can share your comments and reviews, and discover new Cuban cigars in the process.

Welcome to the Vancouver Cigar Community!