

Cigar Insider

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Cigar Insider

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TASTING REPORT

LA PALINA

NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Bahamas

Maker: Graycliff Cigar Co.

Distributor: La Palina Cigars

Filler: Honduras, Nicaragua

Binder: Costa Rica

Wrapper: Ecuador

Release Date: June 2010

THE LITTLE BILL

92 POINTS • 4 1/2" x 52 • \$19.00 • HUMIDOR SELECTION

An attractive little perfecto with some prominent veins to the wrapper, but even combustion imparts nutmeg, leather and earth. Balanced and clean.

Body: Medium

THE 1896 LIMITED EDITION

87 POINTS • 4 3/4" x 52 • \$19.00

A rustic-looking cigar with some oils to the wrapper. It is notably salty on the palate, offering touches of nuts and caramel, but salt was the primary flavor.

Body: Medium to Full

THE ALISON

87 POINTS • 6" x 52 • \$22.00

Rolled with a lumpy head, this torpedo burns a bit unevenly. The draw offers a leathery-tasting smoke with wood notes, though the finish is a bit green.

Body: Medium to Full

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BRAND SUMMARY: Formerly a Cuban cigar brand, this vintage mark was once owned by Samuel Paley, father to veteran broadcaster and CBS founder William S. Paley. But it was the famous broadcaster's son Bill who took an interest in the cigar industry and resurrected the brand last June. Though there is no Cuban tobacco in this recent incarnation, the operation was turned over to Graycliff in the Bahamas. The new brand debuted with one size, the 1896 Limited Edition. After this year's IPCPR trade show, more sizes followed. Note that there are two different blends within this line, one with a Costa Rican wrapper (below), and one with an Ecuadorian wrapper and ligero filler (left). The Ecuadorian wrapped La Palina has a secondary band that reads "ligero" and is marketed as the more full-bodied blend. We agree, but the obvious standout was The Little Bill. It scored 92 points.

Average Rating: 88.2 points

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THE BABE

88 POINTS • 5 1/4" x 50 • \$18.00

Draped in a sandy-colored, veiny wrapper, this cigar has a semi-even burn but full draw. First puffs are a bit gummy tasting but warm to show wood and orange peel.

Body: Medium

THE PASHA

87 POINTS • 7 1/4" x 50 • \$23.00

The shaggy, unfinished foot of this large cigar is difficult to light, but once it takes flame, delivers minty flavors that turn to toast and light spice. A simple cigar.

Body: Medium