

## It's been a while. Time to check out what's new....

**...in the humidors** Among the cigars getting positive pub: The Antanio series from "Joyo De Nicaragua", a full bodied smoke; the Oliva "V" series, very flavorful and getting very high ratings in the magazines; Brick House, a new powerhouse smoke from JC Newman (91 in Cigar Afficianado); the Hoyo de Monterey Tradicion; the old band and packaging but a much better blend; the Edge lite, with a Connecticut wrapper; the Omar Ortiz from Nicaragua (\$5.50); Te-Amo's nublike offering in four different blends; the Hoya de Monterey dark night in a tube; and all 4 sizes of the H. Upmann 2nds. But maybe the cigar making the biggest news is the new blend from Partagas put together and named after industry giant Benji Menedez.

**...on the pipe rack** The holidays brought us new blends including a tin tobacco from the folks at McClelland. Fittingly, it's called Holiday Spirit and it is designed to get you in the mood year round. Speaking of tins, the tobacco racks include many new ones—too many to list here—as well as a couple new bulk English blends—and of course bulk you can try for free. Our stock of new pipes crosses all price categories. Never have we had more leather pipe bags and pouches; many of them coming from our neighbors to the south. Ask to take a look at Hector's exclusive line from Tijuana. Even the most discriminating pipe enthusiast is going to walk away happy with his purchase in our pipe department.


**...in accessories** Vector has introduced a huge 60 plus ring gauge cutter; meanwhile the standard "Xikar" cutter is coming to us in more variety and shapes; we have enough traveldors and humidors to fill a warehouse; Need a cigar case—2 fingers, three, or even more—we have them (once again ask for Hector's work) including the canvas style, which our outdoorsmen love. lighters—all types—both torch and zippo, including the Zippo blue torch lighter; humidifying elements; and more pipe tobacco pouches and cases....starting at \$12. Need a double-blade cutter. Check out the Lotus version.

**....in the smoking lounge** Our annual Legends lunch was held on November 7 at the Butcher Shop. Nearly 100 in attendance to welcome Willie Harvey, Jesse Clark, and Ron Hawtree into the fraternity. Three great guys who have contributed so much to the success of the tobacco shop over the years. It was a wonderful event. Ask now for details about next year's event.

**.....and at city hall** An early warning here on another effort to raise California's tobacco tax. A new initiative is underway and may soon be gathering signatures. Look for the guys and gals at Vons. Interestingly, designers of these initiatives must stop and get the approval of Rob Reiner and his First 5 Commission, who control the lion's share of tobacco taxation in California. A deal must be cut to get First 5's approval and the green light to proceed. Politics. The new initiative will be trying to "save the children" (when does this get old?). Get ready for another battle.

Watch your news for increased calls for a statewide convention to reform California's "outdated" constitution. It's a red herring. Just a ruse to change the 2/3 voted now required for all taxation. With a constitutional change to a 51-49 % vote, politicians in Sacramento will be taxing all day and into the night. More tobacco taxes will certainly follow. No convention is needed. No reform is needed.

Speaking of taxes, pipe smokers should make note of this item from Washington, where politicians at the federal level are back wanting more of your hard earned money. Two democrats (Cohen of Tennessee and Doggett of Texas) have introduced federal legislation designed to tax pipe tobacco at the same rate as roll-your-own cigarette tobacco. This is not desirable since roll your own cigarette tobacco is now taxed at a much higher rate (as a result of the 2009 tax signed into law by President Obama). The idea at work here is that all this tobacco *looks the same so lets tax it the same*. Ugh! We are fighting it hard.



Buy Any 4 Macanudo 1968 Cigars and Get a FREE LIGHTER.\*

**SURGEON GENERAL WARNING:**  
Cigar Smoking Can Cause Cancers  
Of The Mouth And Throat, Even If  
You Do Not Inhale.

\*Purchase any four Macanudo 1968 cigars and receive a free Macanudo lighter. Offer available while supplies last.

### *While it lasts*

First come first served on this baby.  
All sales finals.

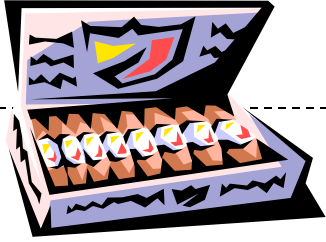
With the purchase of any four 1968 cigars—Macanudo's new full-bodied blend—you will receive a Macanudo engraved torch lighter.

# Liberty Tobacco

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***Liberty opens Del Mar store***

## Liberty Enters North County

For years echoes from the north kept ringing in our ears.... *we need cigars, we need pipes, we need pipe tobacco, we need Liberty...*and finally we have acted on them. We have started the new year by opening a satellite store — in the Flower Hill Mall at the Via del al Valle exit of 5. Smaller than our current store, Del Mar will still offer many of the same well-known cigars and pipes and pipe tobacco you' v e been accustomed to seeing in Kearny Mesa. Please stop by when in the area and check us out. Danny is the man on the spot. He ' ll help you in any way he can. A cozy smok-

### What the boys are smoking...

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| Ben     | Hoya de Mont de Tradicion               | Nice medium-bodied blend from the cigar masters at General               |
| Ed      | Gran Habano G.A.R.                      | Excellent - new cigar from George Rico                                   |
| Cedric  | La Riqueza Double Corona                | An impressive medium to full stick from Nicaragua                        |
| Dan     | La Flor Dominican Double Ligero.        | An aromatic, full bodied cigar with excellent flavor and kick!           |
| Cory    | Illusione Epernay                       | Nice medium to full body cigar. Great for the garage.                    |
| Mike    | partagas benji menendez                 | Rich, coffee overtones. Toro size suits me well. From the master blender |
| Charlie | Hoya de Monterey<br>Exceptione limitada | At \$6.75 one of our best buys   |