

Top 10 Things to Look for in a Premium Cigar

By Cigar Joe, www.RMRCigar.com

Many people, even experienced cigar smokers, can't really tell you what differentiates a premium cigar sold in specialty shops and an everyday cigar found in big box retailers. So we asked RMR Cigars, a company that is nationally known for only offering the best of premium cigars – What should people look for when purchasing a premium cigar. Here's the answer that we received:

1. **Age:** Tobacco is like fine wine- it gets better with age. When purchasing a premium cigar, it is important that the cigar is aged for a minimum of 6 months. Premium cigars are aged anywhere from 6 months to as long as 20 years, in the case of Partagas 150's.
2. **Aroma:** A fine cigar should have the great unlit tobacco aroma that is sweet, natural, and earthy. The tobacco plant acquires the qualities of everything that surrounds it: earth, sun, air, and water. You should always turn away a cigar that has a chemical smell, as machine made cigars often do.
3. **Clean Foot:** The foot (lit end) should be evenly cut and have very slight variations in color, but under no circumstance should you see green leaves.
4. **Feel:** A premium cigar should feel tightly wrapped and willing to be handled, but not abused. As you inspect it, you should not find any lumps or empty spots beneath the wrapper.
5. **Hand Rolled:** Any true premium cigar has been meticulously hand rolled by individuals who take pride in their art. If a cigar says "machine rolled," it is not a quality cigar.
6. **Humidor:** The most important part of a cigar is your humidor! Keeping your cigar at 70% humidity & 70°F can make a \$5.00 cigar smoke like a \$15.00 cigar. Vice versa, a \$15.00 could smoke like a \$5.00 cigar if kept in poor conditions.
7. **Tobacco Filler:** Premium cigars are exclusively made from 100% tobacco with long filler. This keeps the taste and draw consistent from the first taste to the last.
8. **Tobacco Stores:** Selecting a cigar from the grocery or drug store can never go well when in search of a premium cigar. Your best bet will always be a specialty tobacco store or website. They are sure to carry 100% tobacco cigars, without the preservatives you'd find at non-specialty stores.
9. **Wrapper Color:** The wrapper of a cigar determines much of its character and flavor. You want to look for a wrapper that is evenly colored, with very little variation throughout the stick. Small sun spots are common and do not affect the quality of a cigar, but your ideal smoke will be smooth, consistent, and silky.
10. **Wrapper Texture:** The tobacco leaf wrapper should feature small veins throughout the cigar. These keep your cigar burning evenly and consistently. You want to avoid large or thick veins because they will have the opposite effect, making the cigar burn unevenly. Also, keep an eye out for pin sized holes throughout the wrapper-if you find any you've come upon the dreaded tobacco beetle.

RMR Cigar features the highest standard of product, quality and service aiming to be your premium cigar purveyor. Please feel free to contact RMR Cigar at Sales@RMRCigar.com or visit the website at <http://www.RMRCigar.com>