

## TASTING REPORT

### ILLUSIONE CRUZADO

#### VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: Tabacos Valle de Jalapa S.A. (TABSA)

Distributor: Illusione Cigars

Filler: Nicaragua

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Nicaragua

Release Date: July 2016

#### SHORT ROBUSTO

**92 POINTS** ■ 4 1/4" x 48 ■ \$8.35 ■ Humidor Selection

The punchy, chewysmoke of this short cigar exhibits an elegant interplay of raisin sweetness, cinnamon and a piquant, red pepper spiciness. Complex and delicious.

Body: Medium to Full

#### CHURCHILL

**90 POINTS** ■ 6 3/4" x 48 ■ \$11.35

A well-made Churchill with harmonious notes of nutmeg, sweet herbs and ground black pepper that usher in a leathery finish.

Body: Medium to Full

#### GORDO

**90 POINTS** ■ 6" x 56 ■ \$10.85

There's a salt-and-pepper character to the smoke of this fat cigar that also hints of citrus and cedar. The draw is open, its burn, quite even.

Body: Medium

#### ROBUSTO

**89 POINTS** ■ 5 1/4" x 50 ■ \$9.20

Enrobed in a dark, toothy wrapper, this cigar burns evenly, delivering notes of sweet cedar, nuts and dark chocolate, though the finish is a bit dry.

Body: Medium

**BRAND SUMMARY:** In 2016, Illusione relaunched Cruzado, a cigar brand that debuted in 2008. Cruzado was originally a six-size line draped in a Criollo Rosado wrapper. The new version

has been cut back to four sizes and wears a Corojo Rosado cover leaf. The packaging and band artwork have been updated as well. In our vertical brand tasting, the Short Robusto popped with flavor, showing the most complexity for a score of 92 points.

Average Rating: 90.3 points

### MACANUDO INSPIRADO RED

#### NEW RELEASE—VERTICAL BRAND TASTING

Country: Nicaragua

Maker: Scandinavian Tobacco Group Estelí

Distributor: General Cigar Co.

Filler: Nicaragua, Honduras

Binder: Nicaragua

Wrapper: Ecuador

Release Date: March 2018

#### GIGANTE

**87 POINTS** ■ 6" x 60 ■ \$7.49

A fat cigar with a firm draw. While the smoke has a nutty, peppery quality with touches of cedar, the finish leaves the palate dry.

Body: Medium to Full

#### TORO

**87 POINTS** ■ 6" x 50 ■ \$6.99

This oily, veiny cigar burns evenly but notes of coffee, fruit and wood are faint, as are muted hints of chocolate. The qualities could be more pronounced.

Body: Medium to Full

#### ROBUSTO

**86 POINTS** ■ 5" x 50 ■ \$6.49

Sharply pressed and draped in a dark wrapper, this cigar burns evenly. Its earthy, woody and citrus-like notes are offset by some bitterness and acidity.

Body: Full

**BRAND SUMMARY:** Macanudo Inspirado Red is part of General Cigar's 'Inspirado' series of Macanudo cigar brands and was released to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Macanudo brand. The cigar line, which was marketed as a full-bodied smoke, was quite consistent in its scoring.  
Average Rating: 86.7 points

## 100 POINT SCALE

95-100: Classic ■ 90-94: Outstanding ■ 80-89: Very good to excellent ■ 70-79: Average to good commercial quality  
Below 70: Don't waste your money ■ N/A: Not Available Note: Prices are manufacturers' suggested retail, before taxes.