



Rocky Patel 1990 Vintage Churchill

Rocky Patel is one of those great cigar companies that only produce the best of the best. The company has only been around since the mid 1990's, but it has since become a benchmark to other cigar companies. It is one of the few that have not been bought out by the big cigar conglomerates, all the while cranking out top notch cigars that are constantly rated in the 90's and up by Cigar Aficionado.

For this month, I went with the 1990 Vintage Churchill, a new cigar to our humidor but not to the cigar scene. This cigar is seven inches long featuring a 48-ring gauge. This box pressed cigar is pressed so tight that it almost has perfect squared edges. The wrapper itself is a 12-year-old Honduran maduro tobacco, boasting a beautiful deep chocolate brown color with no veins to speak of and almost invisible seams. The pre-light aroma is a rich buttery tobacco with a little pepper on the nose and a hint of anise on the foot of the cigar.

I used my punch with this cigar not wanting any unpleasant tobacco lingering in my mouth. The cigar lit very easily, almost too easy, making me wonder if it was too dry and needed to be in the humidor for a while longer. Nevertheless, this was not the case with its perfect draw, nice plumb of rich smoke and an awesome flavor of pepper, coco, and medium tobacco with a medium body. These flavors were consistent throughout the entire first third of the cigar.

The second third of the cigar is where the anise that I was smelling starts to come in to play with a slight sweetness that starts to grow as you smoke the cigar. The cigar turned out to be very interesting in that it does not follow the trend of other Nicaraguan maduros on the market, instead of the classic, bold, in-your-face full flavored cigar, I am getting a smooth buttery nut with a little anise, pepper, coco all infused in a thick cloud of sweet smoke.

In the last third, the cigar picked up a little and the pepper

and nuttiness came through, moving it up to a medium-full bodied cigar while keeping that malty sweetness and a coffee flavor coming in to play at the nub of the cigar. The burn on this cigar was good; just remember if the burn starts to get off, put the longer uneven side down because it is hotter.

Overall, this cigar is 4 out of 5! The reason for the point drop is that this is a very elegant smoke and should be smoked like one. If you start to over smoke this cigar, a citrusy/acidic tang or bitterness would come through, so slow down as if you are on a Sunday drive. This cigar is a very nice medium maduro cigar, so it might disappoint those that are looking for that in your face full-bodied cigar, for those who are looking for that, I would suggest getting the Cain with Ligerero tobacco, which will sure fit that bill. For the paring on this cigar, I drank a nice glass of 72 Imperial Chocolate Cream Stout by Breckenridge Brewery and it was perfect.

Brand: Rocky Patel

Line: Vintage 1990

Size: 7 x 48 churchill, box pressed

Wrapper: 12 year old Honduran Broadleaf Maduro

Binder: Nicaraguan

Filler: Dominican and Nicaraguan

Reviewed by Justin Aughenbaugh

Just remember to stop in to the Westside Smoke Shop for all of your tobacco needs! If we do not carry a cigar you would like, just let us know and we will do our best to get it for you. For those of you that have not been in our tobacco shop, we carry all your tobacco needs including everything you need to roll your own cigarettes and a full walk-in humidor in the Waite Park and Baxter locations. We also now are carrying electronic cigarettes and supplies in our Waite Park and Baxter stores. So stop on by and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Westside Liquor has locations in Waite Park, Baxter, St Cloud, Little Falls, Rice, Sartell