

Other important news

Habanos* (D.O.P.) Alliance

Belgian and Cuban beers

The **XVI Habanos Festival** will once again witness an alliance between Habanos and a benchmark beverage. On this occasion the alliance will be with **Belgian and Cuban beers**.

There is an unparalleled richness of variety when it comes to the world of beer, with a multitude of different types, the ingredients and brewing processes of which will be discovered by many of the guests at this alliance thanks to Belgian sommelier and beer expert **Ben Vinken**.

Ben Vinken is the editor of two publications: Beer passion and El Gusto, which focuses on cigars. Both publications are distributed in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. **Ben Vinken** started out as a beer expert before also becoming a Habanos specialist. It is these two passions, beer and Habanos, that he will be showcasing with this alliance.

This **Habanos Festival** seminar will see Habanos and beer paired for the first time, specifically 3 Habanos with 5 beers - 4 Belgian and 1 Cuban. **These include some of the most prestigious and exceptional beers in the world.**

The beers, in order from lightest to strongest are:



Bucanero (Cuba)

A famous Cuban lager to begin with, with 5.4% alcohol and a very pronounced malty flavour.

Duvel (Belgium)

Very strong blond beer. One of the iconic Belgian beers. 8.5% alcohol, made with Pilsen malts and fermented for a second time in the bottle.

Leffe Brown Abbey Beer (Belgium)

A dark beer with 6.5% alcohol and winner of the 2012 gold medal at the World Beer Cup.

Malheur Brut Reserve (Belgium)

The world's first Brut beer. Brewed according to the traditional method (which is used to make sparkling wine), it has an 11% alcohol content. Very dry and pale.

Chimay Grande Reserve (Belgium)

Dark beer from the Trappist monks. 9% alcohol. Smoky and fruity with hints of dark chocolate.

The suggested Habanos pairings are:

H. Upmann Half Corona

Hoyo de Monterrey Epicure No. 2.

Partagás Serie D No. 4.

Each beer will be paired with a Habano according to the suggestion of **Ben Vinken** before being assessed by the guests. The selected pairings between the **Habanos and these prestigious beers** will be offered up for consideration by Festival participants, who will give their opinion on the various suggested pairings. The **Habanos - Beer** alliance will take place on 26 February at 4pm.