

## 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.