

cigar aficionado

The Pairings: Rum Meets Cigars

By [Jack Bettridge](#)



Photo/Jeff Harris

To demonstrate the many options for marrying rum and smoke, we picked two cigars with quite different body spectrums to pair with an array of fine rums. On the mild side we chose the [H. Upmann Connecticut by Grupo de Maestros Toro](#) (87 points, \$8.94), a creamy, sweet cigar with a maduro cap atop its light wrapper. Stepping up in body, we smoked the Oliva Serie V Melanio Figurado, a [former Cigar of the Year](#). The \$15.60 cigar, which has scored as high as 96, has toasted almond, cocoa and espresso bean notes. [See our full feature on the rise of rum.](#)

Plantation Xaymaca Special Dry (86 proof, \$25): Xaymaca is a Jamaican entry in Plantation's stable of Caribbean rums, and blends rums from two separate distillers. Both operate pot stills. It enjoys a year's finish in ex-Cognac casks. Xaymaca is dry and elegant with pepper spice, fruit and cocoa. The Plantation's pepper fills out the Upmann, but the cigar gets dry. Molasses, cinnamon and ripe apples appear when paired with the Oliva.

