

CarLife



Street Heat

LATE-SUMMER DRIVES GET HOTTER WITH AUTOWEEK'S PAIRING OF CIGARS AND CARS

BY AARON SIGMOND

IT'S THE ANNUAL *Autoweek 'Gars & Cars* review, a selection of hand-rolled premium cigars released in the past year, paired with the newest production and concept cars. A fine stogie can complete that drive to the shore or the mountains, top and windows down. Here are the latest, the greatest and the must-tries.

Car: 2012 Audi A7

Cigar: Zino Platinum Z-Class

Size: 546 P (Pyramid No. 2)

Wrapper: Dominican

Handmade in: Dominican Republic

Price: \$9/stick, \$180/tin of 20

Notes: The Z-Class 546 P pyramid, while not overly strong, is the strongest ZP to date.

Pepper flavor is rounded out with sweet and creamy notes and hints of grass. Interesting all the way through, it's also priced right, perfect for life in the fast lane—especially in an Audi A7. www.zinoplatinum.com

www.audiusa.com

CAROL GOULD ©

1. Graycliff Heritage Royale
2. Alec Bradley American Classic
3. Winston Churchill
4. Joyas de Panama
5. My Father "El Hijo"
6. Macanudo Cru Royale
7. Zino Platinum Z-Class
8. Avo Heritage
9. Plasencia Reserva Organica



Car: 2011 Chrysler 300
Cigar: Alec Bradley American Classic
Size: Churchill
Wrapper: Honduran (Connecticut Shade Seed)
Handmade in: Nicaragua
Price: \$5/stick, \$100/box of 20
Notes: An all-new instant American classic, like the Chrysler 300 we've paired it with, this smoke, suggestive of cigars on the U.S. market before the boom of the mid-1990s, has some new, pleasing twists: complex, medium-bodied, with flavors of nuts, a little cacao and light roast coffee with a creamy finish. It's an outstanding breakfast smoke.
www.alecbradley.com
www.chrysler.com



Car: 2011 Porsche Cayenne S Hybrid
Cigar: Avo Heritage
Size: Robusto
Wrapper: Ecuadorian (sun-grown)
Handmade in: Dominican Republic
Price: \$7.50/stick, \$150/box of 20
Notes: The Avo Heritage is evocative of the Avo Uvezian house-style blend, but it's nonetheless a departure from previous Avos—much like its automotive partner, the Porsche Cayenne S hybrid. This stick has a farm cigar's quality: earthy, mushroomy/musty and burnt nuts, with a green-pepper undertone.
www.avo.com
www.porsche.com



Car: 2011 Rinspeed BamBoo Concept
Cigar: Joyas de Panama
Size: Torpedo (No. 2)
Wrapper: Panamanian Sumatran
Handmade in: Panama
Price: \$8/stick, \$200/box of 25
Notes: One of two surprises of this year's tasting is the Joyas de Panama. The lower half of Central America has never been known for its cigars, especially when compared with Honduras and Nicaragua. But this cigar, mild to slightly medium-bodied, has floral and vanilla notes that can add to your fun in the sun, just the way a spin in Rinspeed's beach-buggy concept would.
www.joyasdepanamacigars.com
www.rinspeed.com



Car: 2012 Fiat 500C
Cigar: Graycliff Heritage Royale
Size: Pirate (Pyramid No. 2)
Wrapper: Costa Rican
Handmade in: Bahamas
Price: \$20.75/stick, \$500/box of 24
Notes: This product of the Bahamas' only premium-cigar factory is the embodiment of the spirit found in the Fiat 500C: retro chic coupled with affordable luxury. The Heritage Royale is the seventh blend from this boutique. These full-bodied, well-balanced cigars reveal a hint of cacao and coffee and are perfect for the beach and the drive there in the perfect beach car.
www.graycliff.com
www.fiatusa.com



Car: 2011 Chevrolet Camaro Convertible
Cigar: Macanudo Cru Royale
Size: Toro

Wrapper: Ecuadorian (Habano seed wrapper)
Handmade in: Dominican Republic

Price: \$6.50/stick, \$130/box of 20

Notes: This year, the Macanudo brand turns 40, but it's not resting on its laurels. The Macanudo Cru Royale, created with the tastes of today's cigar enthusiasts in mind, is medium-bodied, a departure from the classic light-bodied Mac blends that usually had mild Connecticut shade wrappers. Although it is sold worldwide, the Mac is an American-market cigar, and this updated classic sits nicely in another updated American classic, Chevrolet's Camaro convertible.
www.macanudo.com
www.chevrolet.com



Car: 2011 Jaguar XJ Supercharged
Cigar: My Father "El Hijo"
Size: Robusto

Wrapper: Nicaraguan
Handmade in: Nicaragua
Price: \$146.25/box of 15
Notes: Jaime García, son of cult cigar maker Don José "Pepin" García, used his master blending dexterity to produce this limited-edition (only 600 boxes) and unique blend exclusively for his friend Abe Dababneh at Smoke Inn. This in-your-face, full-bodied cigar shares the refinement of the Jaguar XJ, but it's for the experienced smoker. There are two layers of flavor: up front, all red and black peppers, then an undercurrent of cacao and molasses. That said, this is not a sweet cigar.

www.smokeinn.com
www.jaguar.com



Car: 2012 Fisker Karma
Name: Plasencia Reserva Organica
Size: Robusto

Wrapper: Nicaraguan
Handmade in: Nicaragua
Price: \$8.50/stick, \$128/box of 20

Notes: What could be a better combo than an environmentally friendly Fisker Karma and a cigar with the world's only 100 percent certified organic tobaccos? These medium-bodied cigars are outstanding. Aged for more than three years, they have grassy and haylike flavor notes with a clean finish.

www.fiskerautomotive.com



Car: 2011 Aston Martin Cygnet (launch edition)
Cigar: Winston Churchill Lancaster

Size: Petit belicoso
Wrapper: Ecuadorian (sun-grown)
Handmade in: Dominican Republic

Price: \$23/tin of four
Notes: The second happy surprise this year is the Winston Churchill Lancaster, a petit belicoso created by cigar house Davidoff of Geneva. Initially sweet and nutty on the dry draw, lighting this cigar sparks up cinnamon, spice and white-pepper notes in full force. Imagine a Chihuahua that thinks it's a Rottweiler, much like the small but fierce Aston Martin Cygnet.
www.winstonchurchillcigars.com
www.astonmartin.com

*Cigar photo shoot location:
 La Casa De La Habana,
 Detroit*

ACCESSORIES: LIGHTERS & CUTTERS

■ EVEN TODAY, MANY AUTOMOTIVE marques lend their names to cigar accessories, from Ferrari and Maserati (humidors) to Lotus, Maybach and Bugatti (lighters, ashtrays and travel humidors). Without question, though, the most prolific are Porsche and Lamborghini. The Porsche Design Studio and the Tonino Lamborghini design firm, run by the son of Lamborghini founder Ferruccio, offer some of our favorite items.

PORSCHE DESIGN



Lighter: PD3/P'3633
Price: \$230
Notes: Torch flame; offered in multiple colors.



Cigar Tube: P'3688
Price: \$245
Notes: Two-finger aluminum cigar tube lined in Spanish cedar; comes in black or silver.

www.porsche-design.com

TONINO LAMBORGHINI



Lighter: Il Toro
Price: \$175
Notes: Torch ("jet") flame; available in multiple colors.



Cutter: Precision
Price: \$85
Notes: Available in multiple colors.

www.lamborghini.it