

Graycliff Emerald - Cigar Aficionado



Graycliff Goes Green

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By Mark Weissenberger

Boutique cigarmaker Graycliff Cigar Co. has added a trio of olive-toned cigars to its lineup. The new Graycliff Emerald cigar line features the once-popular candela wrapper, distinctive for its green color. The cigars were introduced to a select group of retailers at the Tobacconist Association of America's annual meeting held during the week of April 7 in St. Petersburg, Florida.



The cigars are made in Nassau, the Bahamas. The three candela sizes are the President, which is a Churchill, the robusto-sized PG; and the cigarillo-sized Roberta. The wrapper is grown and cured in Ecuador, and the filler is a blend of Nicaraguan, Honduran and Costa Rican tobaccos. The binder is also grown in Ecuador, but its seed is different than the wrapper's. It is a very delicate *corojo*-seed tobacco that is difficult to work with -- Graycliff management said it must be kept in the dark and maintained at a specific temperature.

Cuban rollers used to make similar candela cigars in the days before Fidel Castro, which intrigued Enrico Garzaroli, owner of Graycliff Cigar Co. He originally decided to make the uniquely colored cigars -- which get their greenish hue when the tobacco is fire cured in barns, locking in the leaf's chlorophyll -- for country club members so they would have something different to smoke on the golf course. Then he decided to produce the candelas for his worldwide markets. Graycliff Emeralds are available in the United States, Serbia, Switzerland, Montenegro and Moscow. Graycliff will begin shipping the Emeralds to other European countries in coming months.

According to Graycliff, about 25,000 Emerald cigars will be made available this year. Next year, the company plans on releasing about 45,000 Emeralds.