

# COHIBA

**Flavour profile:**      **Linea Classica: medium to full**  
                                 **Linea BHK: full**  
                                 **Linea 1492: medium**  
                                 **Linea Maduro 5: medium to full**

Cohiba is the flagship brand of Habanos S.A. and was originally created in 1966 for the late President of Cuba, Fidel Castro. They were made at the then top secret, but now world famous, El Laguito factory. At first it was only seen outside Cuba as gifts for heads of state and visiting diplomats and it was not until 1982 that Cohiba was made available in limited quantities to the open market.

The name “Cohiba” is a Taino Indian word for the bunches of tobacco leaves that Columbus first saw being smoked by the original inhabitants of Cuba – the earliest known form of the cigar.

The leaves used for rolling Cohiba vitolas are the “selection of the selection” from the five finest plantations in the San Juan y Martinez and San Luis districts of the Vuelta Abajo zone which is widely regarded as the finest tobacco growing land/soil in the world.

Uniquely amongst Havanas up to three of Cohiba’s filler leaves, the seco, ligero and the rare medio tiempo (the latter of which is used only in the Behike range), undergo an extra fermentation in barrels, which adds smoothness to the blend.

All sizes of Cohiba are ‘tripa larga, totalmente a mano’ – long filler, totally handmade.

Cohiba encompasses four different Líneas, or Lines.

## The Range

**La Línea Clásica;** The original Cohiba cigars. Six sizes were introduced between 1966 and 1989 and the Pirámides Extra was added in 2012.

### Lancero

The longest of Cohiba’s original three sizes created in 1966 and once the cigar of choice for Cuba’s late President Fidel Castro who also used to give them as personal gifts.

### Esplendido

Cohiba’s brilliant Churchill size, first seen in 1989. Beautifully presented in mid-tone wrappers. Make time for this stately cigar, the king of the Línea Clásica and some say the Churchills.

### Corona Especial

Another of Cohiba’s originals; slender, elegant, cultivated and an intense smoke. A much sought-after cigar amongst connoisseurs.

### Panetela

The smallest of the three Cohiba originals. An honest reflection of the rich and rounded taste of Cuba’s most prestigious brand in just a few precious minutes.

### Robusto

The cigar that sparked the Robusto revolution from 1989 onwards and remains firmly in the vanguard of this important vitola. Rich, deep, spicy and not to be missed. The first brand to commercially name the cigar after the factory size reference.

### **Exquisito**

A cigar for the morning with plenty of taste to sharpen the palate. The favourite size of Emilia Tamayo who was the Director of El Laguito factory, the home of Cohiba. Emilia was the first woman ever to manage a Havana factory.

### **Pirámide Extra**

In 2012 the Pirámide Extra became the first addition to the Línea Clásica since the Robusto, Esplendidos and Exquisitos were all introduced in 1989. The vitola is unique to Cohiba and is the only figurado to be found within the portfolio of Cuba's premier cigar brand.

**La Línea Behike;** The three sizes that make up Linea BHK made their debut in 2010. This is the most exclusive line of all. The crème de la crème. It uses the rare medio tiempo leaf in its blend which is found only growing on sparingly few of the sun-grown tobacco plants (top two leaves) and brings an exceptional richness to the taste of the cigars.

### **BHK 56**

One of the widest girths to be found within the entire Havana cigar portfolio that allows a magnificent array of flavours to drench the palate. The absolute ultimate expression of luxury and cigar indulgence.

### **BHK 54**

The number of a BHK stands for its ring gauge. Therefore, this stout model boasts a diameter of 54/64<sup>ths</sup> of an inch, which leaves plenty of room for the fourth component in the filler – the Medio Tiempo leaves. These bring a startling intensity to the flavour that meld with the other filler leaves for a rich, creamy, memorable finish.

### **BHK 52**

The Linea BHK swept all before it when the three sizes were launched in 2010 and yet it was the smallest, the BHK 52, that was awarded the prestigious Cigar Aficionado 'Cigar of the Year' award in the same year. A simply stunning and unique taste of Havana.

**La Línea 1492:** Five sizes were launched in 1992 to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Columbus's arrival in Cuba. The iconic Siglo VI was added in 2002 and then in 2016 the Medio Siglo was launched to commemorate the brand's half century.

### **Siglo I**

Modest in stature yet immensely rewarding in taste. The Siglo I fits perfectly before an afternoon or evening meal and its diminutive dimensions serves as an ideal travelling companion.

### **Siglo II**

This Mareva or Petit Corona size provides the ideal introduction to the taste, quality and style of Cohiba. Start here, then explore.

### **Siglo III**

Often underestimated, the Siglo III can be depended upon to consistently deliver perfectly balanced, elegant medium bodied Cohiba flavours and aromas. A reliable friend.

### **Siglo IV**

The extra girth of this Corona Gorda size allows the signature taste of La Línea 1492 to reveal and show from the very start before developing richly on the palate throughout its lifespan.

### **Siglo V**

Perhaps a size that is not at the height of fashion these days, nevertheless the 8-9-8, as it is often known, is one of Cuba's definitive models. Fulfilling and proud in every way.

### **Siglo VI**

The Lord of La Línea 1492 despite arriving in 2002 some ten years after the first five. Magnificent, uniform wrappers, sensuous to the touch, great construction - this is the best of Cuba and a must have indulgence for all cigar enthusiasts.

### **Medio Siglo**

The first new addition to La Línea 1492 in 2016 since the Siglo VI regally emerged on the scene in 2002. Its dimensions are inspired by the shortest (Siglo I) and widest (Siglo VI) cigars in the Línea. Released to celebrate 50 years since the birth of Cohiba, 'Medio Siglo' translates to English as 'half century'.

**La Línea Maduro 5:** Launched in 2007 this Línea consists of three sizes each dressed in dark maduro wrapper leaves that have been specially aged for five years.

### **Genios**

The most substantial Maduro 5 in the range. The dark wrapper, specially aged for five years, brings a top note of sweetness to its core medium to full blend. Great personality for seasoned smokers.

### **Magicos**

A stocky cigar with a dark countenance accentuated by its aged wrapper taken from the oily upper leaves of shade-grown plants. Rich, spicy and with a great draw. Suits aficionados with limited time.

### **Secretos**

The rich, sweetish Maduro 5 flavour in a compact size which burns well and delivers an intense aromatic taste. A little jewel.