



Bob's Miami Cigar Shop Recommendations

(This is a dynamic list that will be updated as I visit more cigar shops)

Definitely head over to Calle Ocho (SW8th St). It is easy to find right off I-95. After browsing the cigar shops on Calle Ocho in Miami, an excellent but inexpensive diner for breakfast and lunch with lots of Cuban influence and flavor is the Versailles Restaurant right on the west end of all the tobacco shops (3555 SW 8th St, Miami, FL 33135-4196).

El Credito Cigar Factory

<http://elcreditocigars.com/>

1106 SW Eighth St. (corner of 11th Ave.); 305-858-4162



El Credito Cigars is a pilgrimage in itself. It has a newly renovated retail store and is the oldest operating cigar factory in the United States. This is the very space where the non-Cuban La Gloria Cubana cigar was born. Ernesto Perez-Carrillo Sr. first rolled it here in 1968, and since 1980s the brand has been shepherded by his son, Ernesto Perez-Carrillo Jr., a master of the art of making complex, flavorful smokes. In 1992, the company's cigars went from a well-kept local secret to a must-have for enthusiasts countrywide. Now the lion's share of the cigars are made in a much larger facility in the Dominican Republic, but La

Gloria still has its original (although considerably reworked) galleria in the heart of Calle Ocho. About a dozen cigarmakers work in the main room, which is open to tourists, who can watch firsthand as a world-class cigar is made. Adjacent to the rolling area is a posh cigar shop with a few chairs, where smokers can buy the entire El Credito line and maybe see Perez-Carrillo Jr.

El Rey de los Habanos

<http://www.elreydeloshabanos.com/>

1120 SW Eighth St. (between 11th and 12th aves.); 305-858-0001



One of the tiniest cigar factories in the world also produces amazing cigars. José “Pepín” García, a master cigar maker who, with his family by his side, continues to follow in the tradition maintained in Cuba for many years founded El Rey de los Habanos. Walk in the factory and watch a dozen cigarmakers slowly craft cigars in the Cuban style: working only by hand—no bunching devices—using two small binder leaves, and finishing each cigar with a triple-seamed cap. El Rey de los Habanos is considered by many in the cigar industry as one of the few factories that consistently produce the highest rated cigars, including Tatuaje and Don Pepin cigars. The team

of cigar rollers is comprised primarily of persons who received formal training from Pepín in Cuba, and who have become cigar-making experts through training in the most modern and creative cigar manufacturing methods

El Titan de Bronze

<http://www.eltitandebronze.com/>

1071 SW Eighth St. (corner of 11th Ave.); 305-860-1412



Family owned and operated, El Titan De Bronze™ Cigar Mfg. has been established since 1995 in Little Havana, Miami, FL. All of its cigars are hand crafted in the USA by “Level 9” rollers all of whom have worked for world-renowned factories. The interesting name translates to “The Titan of Bronze,” a colorful nickname given to a

very tough Cuban general named Antonio Maceo Grajales, who fought Spain for Cuba's independence in the second half of the nineteenth century. A century ago, before there were national cigar brands, most smokers bought their cigars at corner cigar factories like this one.

Each cigar is made in the traditional Cuban style of tubing the filler (entubado) and then finished off with a beautiful triple cap. Each "tarea" (days work) is then inspected by another Master Roller/Blender, boxed and dated to ensure the cigar is of the highest standard for the aficionado.

La Tradicion Cubana

<http://www.tradicion.com/>

1336 SW 8th Street; 305-643-4005



All of La Tradicion Cubana's premium blended cigars are aged in Spanish cedar and meticulously rolled to perfection by expert tabaqueros (rollers). This family owned business (Luis Sanchez) produces Jameson, Casa Gomez, and La Caridad del Cobre cigar brands. Warm and welcoming service and excellent, quality cigars.

Little Havana Cigar Factory

1501 SW 8th Street; (305) 541-1103



Large selection of premium brands; helpful, friendly staff; and comfortable, roomy lounge area.

OFF CALLE OCHO, WORTH A DETOUR

Cigar Companies

Although many headquarters of premium cigarmakers are located in or near Miami, only a few are geared to handle visitors.

Cuban Crafters Cigars

<http://www.cubancrafters.com/cigar-store.php>

3604 NW 7th St; (305) 573-0222



One of the largest cigar stores in Florida with friendly personalized service. Carries a wide variety of brands including their own, and offers a comfortable wine and coffee lounge. Cigar maker Don Kiki is usually on site and is happy to share his cigar knowledge with you.

Padrón Cigars

1575 SW First St., Miami; 305-643-2117

When Padrón more than quadrupled its space with its headquarters, the company kept its customers in mind, with a posh cigar lounge and retail store that stocks all of the company's fine cigars under one roof. Peruse the wall of photographs spanning the family's more than four decades of making cigars. Family members are often there—all the more reason for a visit.

Puros Indios Cigars

114 NW 22nd Ave., Miami; 305-644-1116

This is one part cigar factory outlet, one part smoking lounge, located next door to the sales office and warehouse. The company, now called Reyes Family Cigars, also makes Cuba Aliados cigars, and president Carlos Diez claims the HQ lounge makes the best Cuban coffee in Little Havana.

Sosa Family Cigars**3475 SW Eighth St. (between 34th and 35th aves.); 305-446-2606**

After a hearty meal at the nearby Versailles eatery, walk a block west and head to Sosa Family Cigars (once known as Macabi). All 1,000 square feet of this shop are humidified, and it's well stocked with cigars. "I probably have 350 open boxes," says Junior Sosa, who runs the shop for his family, makers of Sosa Cigars in the Dominican Republic. The Sosas made cigars here during the boom, but no longer. In addition to the large cigar selection, Sosa has a smoking lounge and a well-used dominoes table. The shop is also a wine store, stocking some 80 different selections, most of them Spanish, the favorites of family patriarch Juan Sosa.

Tabacalera Perdomo Headquarters**5150 NW 167th St., Miami Lakes; 305-627-6700**

Grassy and suburban Miami Lakes is home to Tabacalera Perdomo, where you can sample and buy its Nicaraguan-made cigars in a cozy smoking room. You may even run into owner Nick Perdomo.

Sabor Havana**2600 NW 87TH AVE****DORAL, FLORIDA 33172****305-436-8860**