

TUSK & TURF: THE INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT POLO CHAMPIONSHIP IN THAILAND

Robb Report

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AUGUST 2004



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Cigar in the Bottle®



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FORBIDDEN X

In 1992, the Arturo Fuente Cigar Co. literally planted the seeds for the Fuente Fuente OpusX, which would become one of the most sought-after cigars in history. It was the first cigar with a wrapper, binder, and filler that were all grown in the Dominican Republic. Now, 12 years later, the Dominican Republic's Château de la Fuente has created an even more exclusive cigar: the Forbidden X. This limited-edition *puro* is slightly subtler than the OpusX; a higher percentage of filler comes from the mellow middle of the plant. After aging as long as 10 years, these tobaccos are finished in French oak Calvados barrels to lend delicate apple and oak nuances that complement the smooth spice of the cigar. Only two *torcedores* roll the 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 49 ring gauge cigars, which are then aged in cedar for more than a year. Finally, the cigars are encapsulated in a bottle of 40-year-old Grand Pommier XS Calvados. "Originally, creating an all-Dominican cigar was a forbidden project," says company president Carlos Fuente Jr. "Combining the Forbidden X with a brandy made from apples, the forbidden fruit, is a perfect pairing. It had to be destiny." A portion of the proceeds from every Forbidden X will be donated to the Cigar Family Charitable Foundation, an organization founded by Fuente Jr. to assist needy children in the Dominican Republic.

—RICHARD CARLETON HACKER (\$250) www.cigarinthebottle.com

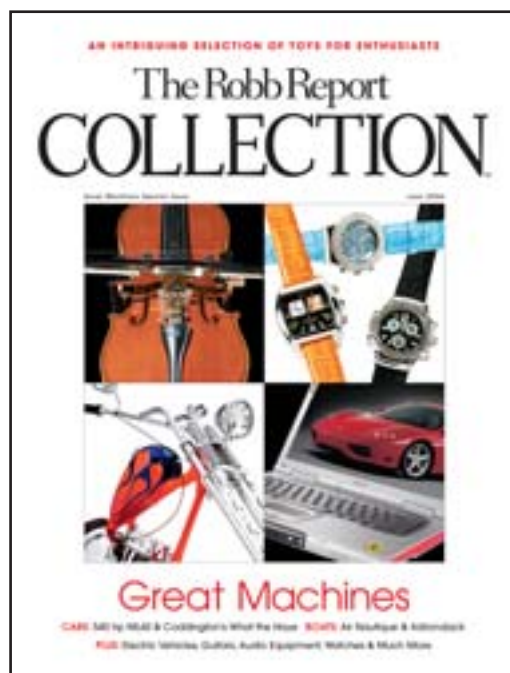
Cigar in the Bottle®

An X-quisite X-perience

CIGAR IN THE BOTTLE

The essence of the forbidden fruit is captured by Cigar in the Bottle, as the Fuente Fuente Forbidden X cigar and Grand Pommier XS Calvados brandy are united to form a luxurious gift that pleases the palate and the eye. Grand Pommier, French for “great apple tree,” comes from the oldest distillery in Normandy, the Père Magloire Calvados Distillery in Pont-l’Évêque, which boasts of the largest reserves and the most experienced cellar masters in the Pays d’Auge region. Distinguishing it from other brandy varieties, Calvados is made exclusively from Normandy apples, considered among the most succulent, and is free of common cognac additives, thanks to a double distillation process. True to its roots, Grand Pommier XS Calvados is derived from 100 apple varieties from the Fuente reserves in Pays d’Auge, all hand selected at different periods during the growing season to produce a mélange of flavors. It is then aged up to 40 years in oak casks and blended with discriminating tastes in mind.

To complement these flavors, a limited edition Fuente Fuente Forbidden X cigar is creatively secured within the Grand Pommier’s sculpted handblown bottle. The 6¾-inch-long specimen has a 49-ring gauge composed of seven tobacco varieties grown on the grounds of Château de la



Fuente in the Dominican Republic. This tobacco is selected from the middle primings, intended to create a smoother, sweeter blend that complements the Calvados; in addition, Forbidden X cigars are aged up to 45 days in Calvados oak casks to capture a hint of the cognac’s apple aroma.

The Forbidden X will remain fresh for a year or more in the custom Humidipak chamber, which has an adjustable two-way moisture control set at 65 percent relative humidity to mimic the climate of the Dominican Republic. The Humidipak separates the cigar from the spirits, keeps the natural oils and flavors in place, and prevents fluctuations in humidity.

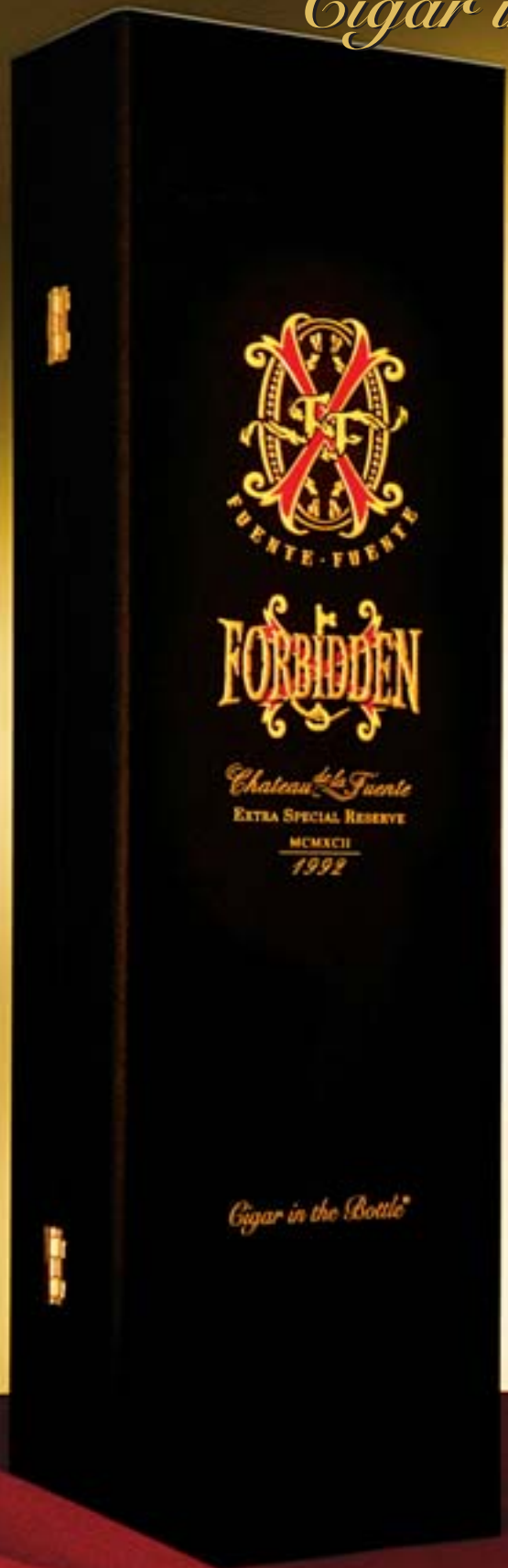
Because of the cigar’s aging process, production of Cigar in the Bottle is notably limited; although intended as a gift for high rollers from the casino hosts of Las Vegas’ and Atlantic City’s finest hotels and casinos, the Cigar in the Bottle may also be purchased for \$250 without necessitating a trip to a gambling mecca. “Forbidden Johnny” Soyak and Matt Bogosian, the brains behind Cigar in the Bottle, say it is “the perfect gift for the man who has almost everything.” We think women will like it, too. —K.S.

Cigar in the Bottle, www.cigarinthebottle.com



The Cigar in the Bottle is available for purchase, but it's more fun to get one gratis as a guest of the country's finest casinos.

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