

BEER & CIGARS

IT'S ALWAYS A CELEBRATION WHEN YOU UNWRAP A SAVORY CIGAR AND POP OPEN AN ELEGANT BEER.

BY KENT OSWALD



Cigar: Rocky Patel Vintage 1990
Beer: Sierra Nevada Porter

This pairing of strong tastes will please a mature palate most. Wrapped in 10-year-old, sun-grown Ecuadorian tobacco, Rocky Patel has bold, earthy flavors that include coffee and cedar. It produces a strong, sophisticated smoke, but the creamy-headed Sierra Nevada holds its own with a mouthful of flavors: You'll detect chocolate and malt notes with hints of caramel and citrus fruit from the hops.

Also Try: Complementing the sweetness and maltiness of the Rocky Patel are the heavier-tasting Samuel Smith Oatmeal Stout as well as the lighter Šaranac Black and Tan.



Cigar: Ashton VSG Sorcerer
Beer: Ommegang Three Philosophers

Year's end is a natural time to reflect and seek out the earth, air, fire and water balance a cigar and beer can provide. Discover that elemental combination by pairing the smooth-drawing Ashton and its flickers of cherry and mocha with Three Philosophers counterbalance of the sweet roasted malts and intense yeast. Let both age a year or two before marrying them, and the strong, mature tastes will provide an even more sophisticated and thought-provoking blend.

Also Try: Brooklyn Black Chocolate Stout and Highland Black Mocha Stout offer additional opportunities for chocoholics rejoicing at holiday time.

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