

#### A FIVE CENTURIES TRADITION

The origins of Nostrano del Brenta tobacco are shrouded in the mists of history. As the story goes, tobacco was introduced in Bassano del Grappa by a monk that hid some tobacco seed in his walking stick upon his return from America in 1550.

We do not know if this story is true but it is documented that the first tobacco in Italy was grown in Bassano, around 1550, by monks that had a monastery in Bassano.

After just a few years, all the farms in this area grew tobacco and between the 17th and 20th century the production of the

Cigars is so important that it represents the main source of maintenance of the Canal di Brenta community.

In 1703 the Venetian Republic forbids the cultivation of tobacco in the area of the Brenta river because it was creating a negative impact on the public finances. Nevertheless, tobacco was grown until 1750 when Venice decided to stop the infringement and appointed an inspector to eliminate all the tobacco farms.

The farmers were undaunted, the production of tobacco started again and in 1763, after quite two centuries of struggles, the Venetian Republic resigned themselves to regulate the plantations giving to the farmers the privilege to cultivate tobacco.

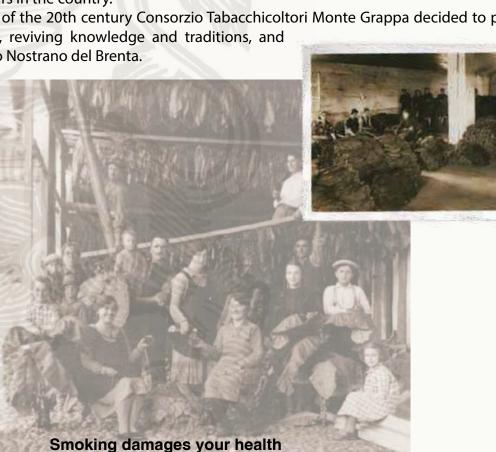


Only in 1763, after quite two centuries of struggles, the Republic of Venice gives to the farmers the privilege to cultivate tobacco, but the Nostrano cigar is already known and appreciated by venetian nobleman.

In the following centuries cultivation is forbidden by the Venetian Government, then the Austro-Hungarian Empire, then Napoleon Bonaparte and last by the Italian government following unification under Garibaldi for "fiscal" reasons: the Sigaro Nostrano didn't exist officially but everyone smoked it in Veneto, thanks to a net of smugglers going from Bassano to the farthest corners in the country.

At the beginning of the 20th century Consorzio Tabacchicoltori Monte Grappa decided to protect

tobacco growing, reviving knowledge and traditions, and renewing tobacco Nostrano del Brenta.



# **Growing and Manufacturing**



All the farms that cultivating the tobacco used for the production of Antico Nostrano del Brenta 1763 are situated in Veneto, in the districts of Padova, Treviso, Venezia, Verona and Vicenza: this is the country where during the centuries the original habanos plant- renamed Nostrano del Brenta, exalting all its qualities.

The ground of every district gives particular characteristics and quality to the plant and to the leaves. Work is Scanned by the seasons alternation and it is made essentially by hand even today.

In February the preparation of the ground starts and, in April is digging time in order to destroy weed and to improve ground. Meanwhile seeding has started in special greenhouses by the hydroponic system, the little plants grows in floating greenhouses giving to the cultivation the best growing conditions, thanks to solutions of water and nourishing salts.



When the plants are 15-20 cm tall, are transplanted into fields; than in the middle of the growth, there is the cutting of the upper bud (than the plants

are pruned), in order to concentrate the energy in the developing leaves.

At the end of the growth, leaves are picked up, even this activity is by hand, "leaf by leaf".

Generally crop is between August and September and start the beginning of the tobacco grading and care. This is an



important step because it can influence the tobacco quality and therefore the yield of all the entire crop.

Air cured is optioned hanging every single leaf on "filze:" narrow stripsthree or four meters long in a dedicated big shed. So that leaves can naturally be dried at the air.

Two or three months after harvesting, tobacco has completed the first stage of processing, called "ammaronamento". Thanks to the arrival of the rainy season, it has reached the right degree of humidity and its preparation can start. In this phase, farmers stack up the strips in barns, then they cover them with sheets so that tobacco is protected and can finish the curing process "in bulk".

In May, the tobacco chosen in this way is delivered to the Consortium which provides to all the following and different processing.

The first one is the fermentation, that has many passages, depending on its use. Originally, fermentation was done piling up tobacco leaves and later covering them with sheets. Of course, this traditional technique has been replaced by the use of special cells. Anyway these cells keep the natural characteristics of this particular and fundamental processing.

Once fermentation ends, tobacco is preserved in special rooms where it will rest for years before using it in cigars manufacturing.

The Antico sigaro toscano del Brenta 1763 is completely bandmade by the cigar-makers of Campese manufacturing, near Bassano del Grappa, following a processing passed down from generation during 4 centuries.

The Cigar is packaged with the wrapper and the binder, previously fermented and contoured. The first stage of processing is the preparation of the "pupa", that is rolling the binder on the filler; some days after, the second stage is rolling the wrapper, the external leave that complete the "clothing" of the cigar.

The instruments used by cigar-makers for these activities are all manual and they all need a great experience and sensibility.

Unlike Caribbean cigars, italian manufacturing tradition doesn't use presses and molds to give a perfect cylindrical form to cigars. On the contrary, the "pupa" rests without any pressure of space or form. All that reflected on the next phase, that is rolling the wrapper and mostly on the form that the cigar will have at the end.

The cigar built in this way, starts a long maturation that will end, after many quality controls, with the final packing for sale.









## Antico Sigaro Nostrano del Brenta - Il Fondatore Ten piece box

The Sigaro del Fondatore is a product of the highest level, made with Nostrano del Brenta tobacco originally from Havana and part of the Dark Air Cured category, cultivated in Veneto since 1550.

The cigar is dedicated to Bortolo Nardini, the first grappa producer in Italy and one of the founding members of the Consorzio Tabaccicoltori Monte Grappa (Consortium of Tobacco growers).

MANUFACTURING: Il Fondatore Cav. Dr. Bortolo Nardini is made entirely by hand by the cigar makers of Campese, Bassano del Grappa, with a blend of tobacco aged at last three, four and five years. After rolling, Il Fondatore is re-fermented in the curing chamber and further matured for another 12 months. Compliance with quality standards is guaranteed by numerous checks made throughout the production chain and on the final product.



## How to enjoy Ducale at the best

SMOKING: The dimensions are extremely generous. It has a conical form and is created to smoke whole, not cut. The particular manufacturing process for II Fondatore make the smoke round, full, satisfying with an interesting evolution of the taste.

TASTING: We recommend keeping il Ducale at a relative humidity and temperature, respectively equal to 65-70% and 18-20 C. Before lighting your cigar, we suggest you to make additional visual evaluation, auditory and tactile point of view.

It would be better to do a puff with the unlit cigar to verify the correctness of the draw and to appreciate the aromatic charge of the tobacco mixture, woody and dried fruit notes, which are typical of Nostrano del Brenta.



### MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF IL FONDATORE CAV. DOTT. BORTOLO NARDINI

DRAW - In order to enjoy it at its best, slow and regular draw are recommended, so as it is possible to perceive the aromatic notes of fermented tobacco Nostrano del Brenta. This cigar has been designed to have a medium draw in order to allow a tasty and aromatic smoke.

BURNING - Burning is regular and complete, so the cigar can express the most of its taste and aroma.

### STRENGTH - Light to Medium

TASTE - Il Fondatore keeps the organoleptic characteristics of Nostrano del Brenta, with great complexity and roundness. Il Fondatore is extremely gratifying, never ordinary, with a delicate and persistent taste and aroma of spices and liquorice, wood and walnut. During the smoke the aromas evolves and became evident the walnut and the bazelnut taste, followed by a delicate hint of wood.

AFTERTASTE - Tobacco Nostrano del Brenta, fermented and with a long seasoning, burns excellently, releasing a delicate after taste with notes of dried fruit, in special almond and bazelnut. The palate is clean and fresh.

Measurements of IL FONDATORE

Ring Gauge: 48 rg

Length: 5 inches and 1/2





## Antico Sigaro Nostrano del Brenta - Il Ducale Two piece box

Ducale following the tradition of Antico Sigaro Nostrano del Brenta 1763, is a great size cigar, obtained by a careful selection of Tobacco Nostrano leaves, which have been aged for over three years before using them.

The typical aromas of Tobacco Nostrano del Brenta, are enhanced by a specific manufacturing process, which provides leaves used in wrapper and binder of the cigar pass twice in the fermentation cell. The result is a strong taste with marked note of hazelnut, mild flavors and round scents.

MANUFACTURING: Totally by hand with wrapper and binder using Tobacco aged over three years and cultivated only in Veneto Region. After manufacturing II Ducale mature at least six month and it's checked one by one from the cigar rollers to guarantee the best quality in every box.



## How to enjoy Ducale at it's best

SMOKING: Due to The particular shape and size of il Ducale, the cigar can be smoked in full as in the tradition of canal di Brenta, or "halved". The peculiarity of the manufacturing process in il Ducale make the smoke round, full, satisfying and fairly scented, with strong notes of hazelnut.

TASTING: We recommend keeping il Ducale at a relative humidity and temperature, respectively equal to 65-70% and 18-20 C. Before lighting your cigar, we suggest you to make additional visual evaluation, auditory and tactile point of view.

It would be better to do a puff with the unlit cigar to verify the correctness of the draw and to appreciate the aromatic charge of the tobacco mixture, woody and dried fruit notes, which are typical of Nostrano del Brenta.

### Smoking damages your health



### MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF IL DUCALE

DRAW - In order to enjoy it at its best, slow and regular draw are recommended, so as it is possible to perceive the aromatic notes of fermented tobacco Nostrano del Brenta. This cigar has been designed to have a medium draw in order to allow a tasty and aromatic smoke.

BURNING - Burning is regular and complete, so the cigar can express the most of its taste and aroma.

STRENGTH - Medium to Medium - bigt

TASTE - Il Ducale keeps the organoleptic characteristics of Nostrano del Brenta, with great complexity and roundness.

AFTERTASTE - Tobacco Nostrano del Brenta, fermented and with a long seasoning, burns excellently, releasing a delicate after taste with notes of dried fruit, in special almond and bazelnut. The palate is clean and fresh.



Measurements of IL DUCALE Ring Gauge: 42 rg Length: 6 inches and 3/4



## Antico Sigaro Nostrano del Brenta - Il Casanova Five piece box

Casanova is a half sized cigar, in that it is not intended to be cut in two. The small size of this cigar can satisfy one's need for a quick but definitively fulfilling smoke.

MANUFACTURING: Totally by hand with wrapper and binder using Tobacco aged at last three years and cultivated only in Veneto Region. After manufacturing Il Casanova mature at least four months and it's checked one by one from the cigar rollers to gua rantee the best quality in every box.



# How to enjoy Casanova at the best

SMOKING: smoking Casanova is not difficult . It may be consumed in a short time, great during a break having a good drink. Thanks to the small size, the quality of taste comes immediately after the first draft.

TASTING: Before lighting it, we suggest to make additional visual evaluation, auditory and tactile point of view. It would be better to do some puff with the unlit cigar to verify the correctness of the draw and to appreciate the aromatic charge of the tobacco mixture, woody and dried fruit notes are typical of fermented Nostrano del Brenta.



### MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF CASANOVA

DRAW - to enjoy it at its best and in a short time. It has a medium-high draw, in order to have a quick smoke but at the same time fulfilling and rich in aromatic charge.

BURNING – burning is regular and total, so the cigar can express its taste and aroma at its best.

STRENGTH - the cigar develops a firm and satisfying strength in a very short time.

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TASTE – the degree of satisfaction comes from the combination of strength and flavor. Casanova keeps the organoleptic characteristics of Nostrano del Brenta despite the quick smoking.

AFTERTASTE – Nostrano del Brenta, fermented and long seasoned, burns optimally, releasing a delicate aftertaste with dried fruit notes (almond and hazelnut). The palate is clean and fresh.

Measurements of IL CASANOVA Ring Gauge: 30 rg Length: 3 inches and 5/8 ths







Totally Hand Made in Bassano del Grappa, Italy

#### NOSTRANO DEL BRENTA UK

Suite 12, Wey House, 15 Church Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8NA

Phone: +44 7392 299085 e.mail:sigariitaliano@gmail.com www.tabacchicoltorimontegrappa.it