



punta gorda in detail

Havana Tranquility

Punta Gorda's cigar and relaxation destination

Story and photography by Jamie Swartz

Whether you're a cigar aficionado, a novice who would like to learn more about the world of cigars or just someone looking for a luxurious, relaxing getaway, Havana Tranquility has the discerningly unique atmosphere you're looking for.

This little slice of heaven is located at 25139 Marion Avenue just east of downtown Punta Gorda and is not just another cigar bar. It is the unmatched combination of an exquisite cigar emporium and a discerningly exclusive, members-only cigar lounge. It is a cigar lover's paradise.

Owner Dr. Emil Dameff has spared no expense to bring the cigar lovers of Southwest Florida the very finest cigars and accessories that the world has to offer, as well as a sophisticatedly elegant smoking experience in the members-only lounge.

"Havana Tranquility is about the *experience* of smoking a fine cigar in the perfect environment," Dameff said. "This requires the ardent passion and knowledge that our carefully chosen staff of tobacconists possesses. We are your guide into the pleasure of this ages-old tradition, which those with discerning taste have enjoyed for centuries. In order to truly appreciate a fine cigar, it must be tasted, not 'smoked.' Ultimately a fine cigar provides a feast for all of the senses...we look forward to escorting you into that tranquil realm."

Along with Dameff's wealth of knowledge, Ron Andrews, executive operations manager, also has a long history in the premium cigar business and has even developed two cigars of his own. Andrews runs the emporium and is a fount of information for anyone looking for something special or who is interested in the tradition of cigar smoking.

The Emporium

Inside the emporium, you'll find the finest selection of cigars and accessories available. The large walk-in humidor is more than 300 square feet and boasts more than 450 facings. (For those new to cigar lingo, a facing is an open and exposed box of cigars on a humidor shelf.) You will also find a stunning limited edition Partagas 150 Commemorative Humidor inside. It retails for around \$10,000 and contains 150 of the finest cigars ever made. If that's out of your price range, you may purchase one of Partagas' rare Cameroon-wrapped cigars individually. Each one of these superb cigars is wrapped in leaves from a celebrated 1977 harvest and is available in AA, B and C frontmarks (cigar sizes) in a price range of \$75 to \$85 per cigar.

The emporium also carries an array of cigar accessories, from specialty lighters and cases to humidors and the limited edition French S.T. DuPont desk set in solid gold, mother of pearl and sapphires.

"We are proud to be the only official S.T. DuPont and Brizard dealers in the area. Both of these lines are the *crème de la crème* of accessories for the discerning smoker," Dameff said.

Accessories range in price from \$5 to \$25,000; cigars from \$4 to \$85.

Members Only, Please

Membership in the Havana Tranquility cigar club is limited, and the remaining memberships are held on a tiered basis. As of May, membership pricing held at a \$1,000 buy-in and \$100 per month. As memberships become more scarce the price of the buy in and monthly dues will increase. Membership is open to the public and

subject to management and current members' final approval.

The members-only areas of Havana Tranquility are exquisitely appointed down to the last detail. Interior decorator Lorie Irons and builder Towles Corp. incorporated the most lavish structural and interior designs to make the club a cigar smoker's paradise. The atmosphere acts as a portal to take you away from daily life and center you in deep relaxation in a quiet social setting.

Inside the smoking lounge you will find custom-designed leather smoking chairs with storage for your cigars and recesses for all of your accessories. Magnificently sculpted walls in a tea stain finish and chocolate leather combine for a soothing, serene atmosphere. A serpentine granite bar, separate wet bar and refrigerator are also available if you choose to indulge in a libation. (Alcohol is not served on the premises, but you may bring your own.) Lockers are available for rent in the smoking lounge, which is open to members 24/7, and if you have forgotten your cigar and it's after regular business hours, the 'Honor Humidor' is stocked with a wide selection of premium cigars for members' enjoyment. Just drop in the money or an IOU.

Outside on the patio you will find two superbly made domino tables and a cooling system so members can enjoy the great outdoors even on the warmest of days.

Perhaps the most impressive feature of the lounge is the remarkable ventilation system. Unlike most smoking areas, there isn't a cloud of smoke hanging in the air. In fact, there was no smoke to be seen even when five members were enjoying their cigars. This incredible system leaves the air clear and your clothes surprisingly free of any smoky odor.



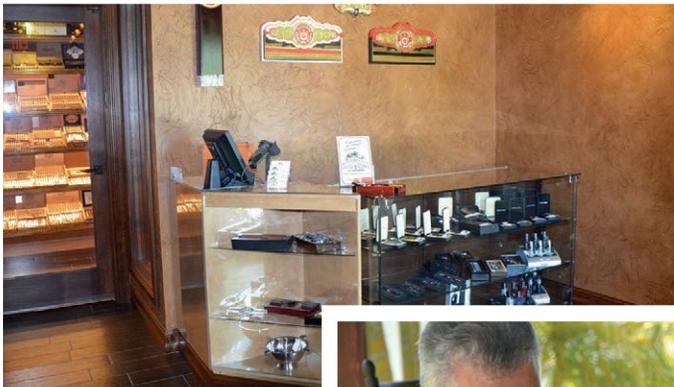
Dr. Emil Dameff, owner and CEO of Havana Tranquility

And adding to the privacy factor, access to the club is not by key, but biometric fingerprint scan!

To experience the members-only lounge before making the commitment, guest passes are available for \$25 for two consecutive days; you may also use the facility for the day when you purchase a box of cigars. Members may bring a guest for an hour each day or use one of their guest passes for the entire day. (Members are given 12 guest passes annually.)

In the future, Havana Tranquility also plans to have cigar events, bringing in premium manufactures for members and members' guests to enjoy. So if you are looking for a discerning social environment or just a place to relax with fellow cigar lovers, pop in to Havana Tranquility and be transported to the cigar lover's paradise.

To learn more about Havana Tranquility, call (941) 347-8177 or visit www.havanatranquility.com. 



Manager Ron Andrews begins the lighting ritual by toasting the foot of the cigar to prepare it for lighting.