

CIGAR & COCKTAIL MAGAZINE

The Art of the Fine Smoke & the Perfect Pour

Q1 2026 · VOLUME I, ISSUE 1



EDITOR IN CHIEF · RADIM KAUFMANN

CIGAR & COCKTAIL MAGAZINE

Q1 2026

*Every score in this magazine is
the result of a blind tasting. The band
comes off before the lighter comes out. Always.*

— Radim Kaufmann, Editor in Chief

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Market Watch 2026



A companion to The Kaufmann World Encyclopedia of Premium Cigars
Cigar & Cocktail Magazine • Q1 2026 • Volume I, Issue 1
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AN INTERNATIONAL QUARTERLY

CIGAR & COCKTAIL MAGAZINE

*The Art of the Fine Smoke
& the Perfect Pour*

Q1 2026 · Volume I · Issue 1

Editor in Chief & Publisher
Radim Kaufmann

Published in association with
The Kaufmann World Encyclopedia of Premium Cigars

“Taste first. Prestige second.”

An international quarterly dedicated to premium cigars, refined spirits, premium travel,
gastronomy, and the atmosphere of modern cigar culture.

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COMING SUMMER 2026

★
FIDEL CASTRO

FIDEL CASTRO

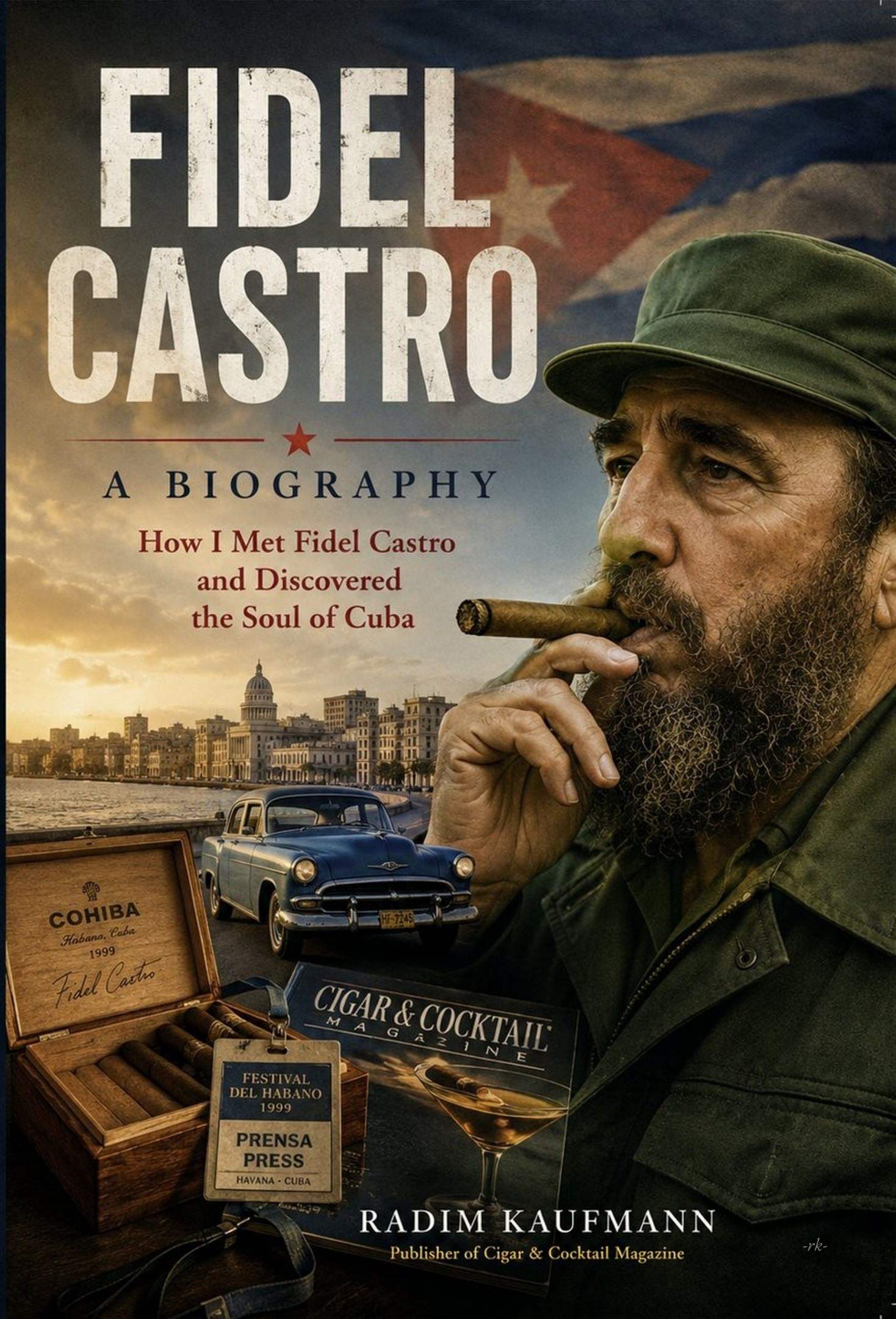
★
A BIOGRAPHY

How I Met Fidel Castro
and Discovered
the Soul of Cuba

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How I Met
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of Cuba

RADIM KAUFMANN



RADIM KAUFMANN

Publisher of Cigar & Cocktail Magazine

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SOME MEN MAKE HISTORY. OTHERS LIVE IT.

I HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET ONE.

In February 1999, I traveled to Havana as the publisher of *Cigar & Cocktail Magazine* to exhibit our magazine at the first *Festival del Habano*.

I expected cigars, conversations, and stories.
Instead, I found myself face to face with Fidel Castro.

This is not a book written in archives.
It is a book written from memory, from the streets of Havana,
from a time when Cuba was opening a small window to the
world, and from a meeting that changed the way I understood
a man the world loves, hates, and never stops talking about.

INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

- ★ A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH FIDEL CASTRO
- ★ THE REAL CUBA I SAW IN 1999
- ★ HEMINGWAY'S CUBA AND ITS LASTING SOUL
- ★ THE STORY OF COHIBA AND THE CUBAN CIGAR
- ★ REVOLUTION, JFK, AND THE COLD WAR
- ★ THE FIRST FESTIVAL DEL HABANO — BACKSTAGE
- ★ RARE PHOTOS, MEMORIES, AND UNTOLD STORIES

“Cuba is not easy to understand. It gets under your skin.
It seduces you. It frustrates you. And long after you leave,
it stays with you. This book is my way of sharing
the Cuba I lived, the man I met, and the soul
of a place unlike any other.

— RADIM KAUFMANN

“
*History will be kind to me,
for I intend to write it.*

— FIDEL CASTRO



VOLUME I · ISSUE I · Q1 2026

CIGAR & COCKTAIL MAGAZINE

The Art of the Fine Smoke & the Perfect Pour

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief & Publisher

Radim Kaufmann

Miami

Rating Systems

Kaufmann Cigar Score™ (KCS v2.1) — shared with *The Kaufmann World Encyclopedia of Premium Cigars*

Kaufmann Pairing Index™ (KPI) — exclusive to this magazine

Photography

Kaufmann Creative Studio

HEALTH & RESPONSIBILITY

Cigar smoking is addictive and can cause serious, life-threatening diseases, including cancer, heart disease, and lung disease. Cigar & Cocktail Magazine is intended solely for adults of legal smoking age, and does not encourage anyone to begin using tobacco. Nothing in these pages is medical, legal, or investment advice. If you choose to use tobacco or alcohol, do so responsibly and in moderation — and never smoke or drink and drive.

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THE KAUFMANN PUBLISHING SYSTEM

THREE PRODUCTS. ONE STANDARD.

The Encyclopedia — *The Kaufmann World Encyclopedia of Premium Cigars*. The permanent record. Country by country, brand by brand, KCS score by score.

This Magazine — Cigar & Cocktail Magazine. What matters now. Quarterly. Pairing-focused. The KPI layer. The living supplement to the encyclopedia.

The Website — cigarcocktailmag.com. Educational entry point. Simplified derivatives. The funnel to both products.

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*"Smoking cigars is like falling in love.
First, you are attracted by its shape;
you stay for its flavor, and you must
always remember never, never to let
the flame go out."*

— ATTRIBUTED TO WINSTON CHURCHILL

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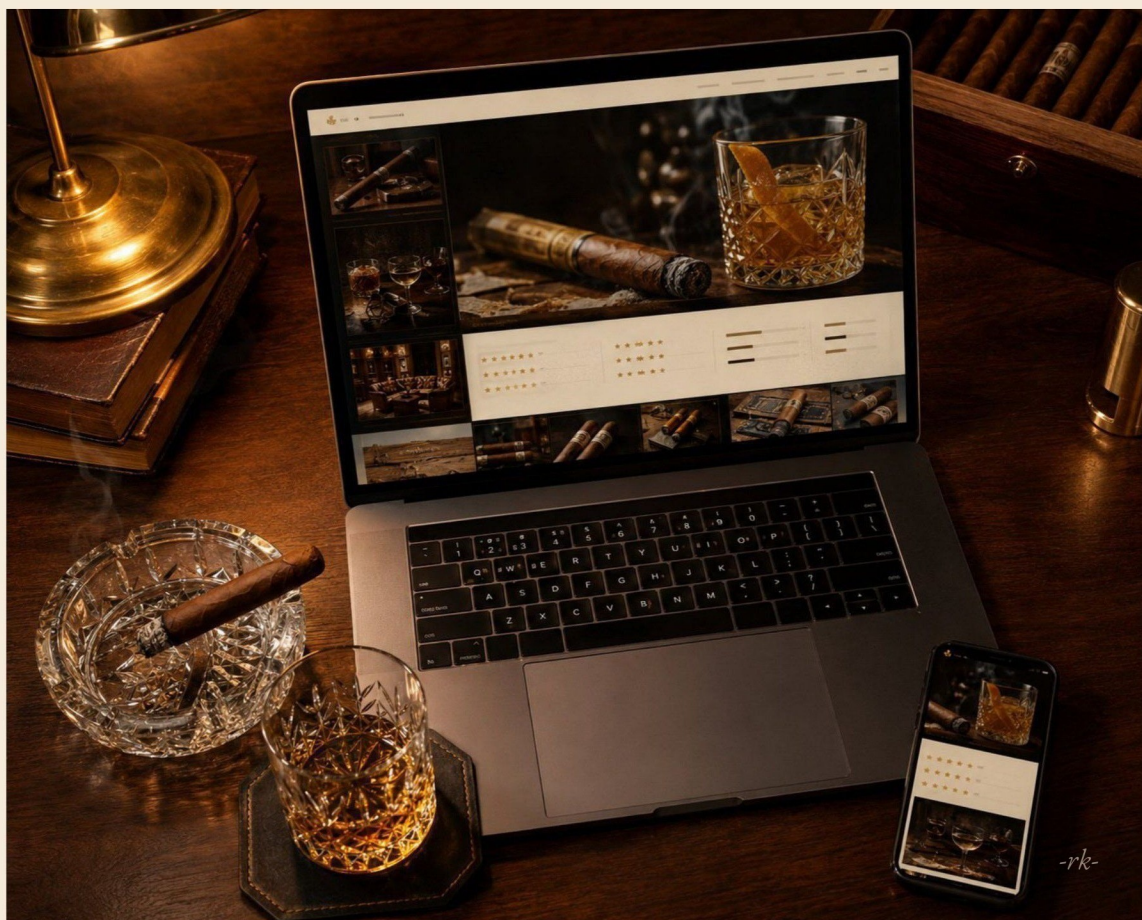
WINSTON CHURCHILL

THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO SURRENDER



RADIM KAUFMANN

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KCS ratings · Pairing guides · Quarterly archive · The Cigar Finder



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Letter from the Editor

Taste first. Prestige second. The story of how — and why — this magazine came back.

BY RADIM KAUFMANN · EDITOR IN CHIEF & PUBLISHER · MIAMI



MY NAME IS RADIM KAUFMANN, AND THIS MAGAZINE WAS CREATED FOR ONE VERY SIMPLE REASON: I MISSED IT.

Not a catalog of new releases. Not a premium advertising supplement. Not a world where price automatically replaces quality. But a real magazine about cigar culture. About atmosphere. About friendship. About travel. About evenings people remember long after the final draw.

My first cigar was given to me by my friend Bernhard Mann. I was thirty years old, and I had never smoked before. I have never smoked cigarettes, and I never will.

I still remember that moment perfectly. We were sitting together, and he patiently explained everything to me — how to hold the cigar, how to light it, why it should never be rushed. Then he placed a Zino Davidoff in a white luxury tube in front of me. It was not just a cigar. It was an atmosphere.

Suddenly, it was no longer about tobacco or nicotine. It was about calm. About time slowing down for a moment. About the company of friends around a table. About good conversation that had nowhere else to be. And somewhere in that moment, the first idea for a cigar magazine was born.

"It was not just a cigar. It was an atmosphere."

Prague, 1998 — Miami, 1999

We first published it in Prague in 1998, and beginning in 1999, also in Miami. It was a different world then. Cigar culture was experiencing an enormous rise, and luxury itself felt different. Cigar lounges, whisky, jazz, travel, hotels, Miami nights, Havana mythology — everything carried a certain energy of optimism and freedom.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. And eventually, restrictions on tobacco advertising stopped the magazine. Life moved on. The world changed. I changed too. But the atmosphere never fully disappeared from my mind.

And perhaps that is why, years later, I decided to bring the magazine back. When I completed and published my global encyclopedia of cigars, I realized something important — an encyclopedia alone is not enough. I missed the living world around it. The stories. The travel. The people. The music. The bars after midnight. The slow conversations. The discovery of new flavors. The atmosphere itself.

And so *Cigar & Cocktail Magazine* was reborn. This time with something we could barely imagine in the late 1990s: global distribution. For that, I sincerely thank Amazon, which makes it possible for this magazine to reach readers around the world.

Why Blind Tasting

Over the years, I also began realizing something else — how deeply prestige influences taste itself. The moment people see a famous cigar band, the mind automatically expects greatness. Not because people are dishonest, but because this is simply how human beings work. Luxury has always been emotional. It works through expectation, memory, and narrative.

That realization eventually led me toward blind tasting. Not as provocation. Not as an attack on premium brands. But as a return to honesty.

Taste first. Prestige second.

That is not a slogan. It is the philosophy behind this entire magazine. The moment the band comes off, a strange silence appears. Suddenly, all that remains is flavor, construction, smoke, and your own senses. There is something deeply liberating about that.

"The moment the band comes off, a strange silence appears. Suddenly, all that remains is flavor, construction, smoke, and your own senses."

The Form on the Table

Ironically, I still struggle with one very simple question on forms — *Do you smoke?* YES / NO. I never quite know what to check. Because I do not feel like a smoker.

This is something different. It is culture. It is atmosphere. It is time spent with friends. It is celebration. It is victory. It is the rare moment when people allow themselves to slow down and enjoy where they are.

For me, cigars were never about nicotine. They were always about moments.

And if you opened this magazine, perhaps you are searching for something similar.

If so, welcome.



⦿ *Light slowly.*
Nobody is in a hurry here.

— *Radim Kaufmann*
Editor in Chief & Publisher
Miami • January 2026

THE KAUFMANN WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PREMIUM CIGARS

A Global Reference Guide

A CIGAR & COCKTAIL MAGAZINE EDITION

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