



# BRIAR PATCH

Feb.  
2004

Arden Fair Mall 1689 Arden Way, # 2006  
916-929-8965 Sacramento, California 95815

## Selecting the Right Humidor for your Fine Cigars

**S**electing a humidor may not be quite as simple as you imagine. There are several questions you should answer before buying one. The first question is 'How many cigars do you want to store?' If you smoke one or two cigars per day, and always smoke the same cigars, a small humidor may be the best for you. You'll be able to buy cigars in box quantities and keep your cigars fresh till you smoke them. However, once most people have a humidor, they tend to expand their horizons and start trying a number of new cigars. The result is they end up buying another, larger humidor later on.

*How long do you want to store your cigars?* Again, if you just want to keep your cigars fresh for a short period of time an inexpensive humidor (roughly \$100.00 to \$600.00) is probably the best for you. Most inexpensive humidors are lined in Spanish cedar. Though Spanish cedar is used by most cigar makers to age their cigars, continuing to age your fine cigars in Spanish cedar will add flavor to the cigars never intended by the cigar manufacturer. Other disadvantages of Spanish cedar lining include potential long seasoning periods to balance the humidity in the humi-

dor, potential bleeding of sticky cedar resin; and problems with mold. If you plan to keep cigars for periods longer than six months you should consider a humidor that is lined with a neutral wood such as mahogany or one where the interior wood is sealed. Your cigars will continue to age and improve, but they will not take on new flavors. Humidors with sealed interiors are the best. They require no seasoning, will not add undesired flavors to your cigars and will help prevent mold growth.

*Do you want a humidor that is a fine piece of furniture or a basic box to keep your cigars fresh?* Basic humidors range in price from about \$100.00 to \$600.00, depending on size and finish. These humidors are constructed of hardwoods lined with Spanish cedar or are fully Spanish cedar. Their designs are either painted or printed on the humidor. Many are then finished with one or two coats of lacquer. Some of these humidors look very nice and have the appearance of wood inlays. Low end furniture quality humidors are made from hardwoods such as mahogany, oak or teak and are lined with Spanish cedar. Some of these will have a thin laminated surface of exotic woods and may have wood inlays. These humidors range in

price from about \$200.00 to roughly \$1,000.00. The best humidors are made from solid hardwoods. They may have inlays of exotic woods. They will either have a neutral or sealed interior. These humidors start at about \$1,200.00.

When selecting a humidor remember that over its lifetime you will store thousands of dollars of cigars in it. Even if you spend \$3,000.00 on a humidor, over your lifetime that's only a few cents per day. At the Briar Patch you will find a large selection of humidors including Craftsman's Bench, Diamond Crown, Savinelli, Alfred Dunhill, Savoy, Griffin, AVO and Davidoff. We will be happy to help you select the right humidor for your needs from our inventory, or we will order one for you.

### *Let the Buyer...*

**S**everal customers have brought us ST Dupont lighters for service that turned out to be counterfeit. One found the lighter she wanted in our store and bought it on the Internet saving over \$100. She then had the embarrassment of her new husband finding her wedding gift was a fake.

There is rampant counterfeiting of luxury items such as lighters, watches, pens and hand bags. If you're not an expert, you can't tell the counterfeit from the real thing. In the case of the Dupont lighters our customers had purchased, even the boxes and the warrantee cards looked real. There were minor external differences that only an expert would notice. The insides of the lighters were very different, however. After just a couple of months the lighters quit working.

When buying a luxury item like ST Dupont lighters, make sure you're dealing with a reputable dealer. There is a lot of junk in the marketplace being passed off as the real thing. **If the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.**

## Upcoming Special Events

**W**e are planning a number of great pipe and cigar events this year. At printing time, however, we have only a couple confirmed dates. Event information will be on our web site, [www.briarpatch.biz](http://www.briarpatch.biz), as we confirm timing. Upcoming events will also be posted in our store.

- **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 4PM to 8PM** Barney Squires from Davidoff will be presenting their Zino Sceptor cigars. This is an amazing smooth, but full bodied cigar. The filler is a combination of Peruvian and three Dominican tobaccos. It has sun grown wrapper from Ecuador. The unusual thing about the cigar is that it has a Connecticut shade

binder. This makes for a very smooth, mellow smoke and also causes the smaller size Sceptors to be fuller bodied than the larger sizes. We will be giving away a Sceptor for every three you buy, including boxes. Torch lighters will also be given away with box sales. There will only be 50 cigars available, so be sure to sign up early.

- **On May 29<sup>th</sup>** Aaron Sissom will be here with an Alfred Dunhill trunk show. Last year he came with hundreds of pipes including many unusual and hard to find. We expect the same this year. Details of this event will be available in May, both in the Briar Patch and on our web site.



# BRIAR PATCH

## Briar Patch Remodel

**S**ometime in the next several months the Briar Patch will be remodeling. We are going to get a new store front, new carpet, will be renewing our oak floor and painting the interior of the shop.

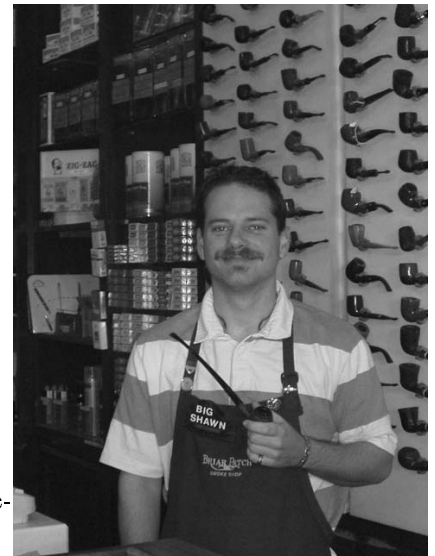
Our current plan is to stay open during the remodel. If we are forced to close for a few days, we will post the dates on our web site and in the store. Please bear with us as we improve our looks so we can serve you in a better environment.

## On Staff: Meet Shawn Flynn

**S**hawn is the newest full time employee at the Briar Patch. Having tried just about every cigar and tobacco in the store, he can assist you in finding the right smoke for you. Shawn attends CSUS, double majoring in Park and Recreation Management and History. He expects to complete his Bachelors this year. Eventually Shawn hopes to complete his PHD and become a college professor.

Shawn is a fifth generation pipe smoker. He enjoys both English and aromatic tobaccos. His favorite pipe is a little Alfred Dunhill Group 1 Zulu. He also enjoys a good cigar. His favorite cigars are the Davidoff Special T, AVO Maduro Torpedo and Arturo Fuente Hemmingway.

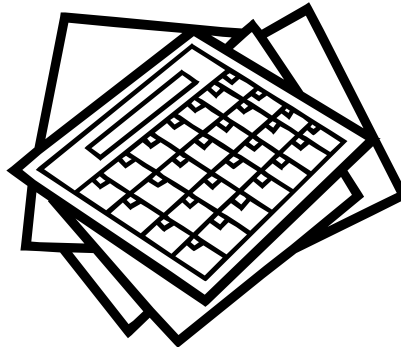
Shawn loves the outdoors. He's an avid hiker and fisherman. Being a good Irishman he also enjoys brewing (and drinking) his own beer. He'll talk history for hours and he plays a pretty good game of chess.



## Inside...

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- **Counterfeit Lighters** — You may not be buying what you think
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- **Meet Our Staff** — Shawn Flynn, student and smoker

## Mark the Dates...



- ▶ **Feb. 26** — Zino Sceptor cigar tasting
- ▶ **May 29** — Alfred Dunhill pipe show
- ▶ **???** — Many more events are being planned

# BRIAR PATCH

1689 Arden Way, Suite 2006  
Sacramento, California 95815

*The Briar Patch is a specialty smoke shop and gift store located on the second floor of the Arden Fair Mall near Sears.*

**Hours: M-S 10AM-9PM**

**Sun 10AM-6PM**

**Telephone: 916-929-8965**

**www.briarpatch.biz**

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