

CigarCyclopedia.com's National Retailer Rankings

(Release No. 3: as of May 20, 2007)

This is our third ranking of national online cigar retailers, based on information culled from retailer websites during a seven-day period from April 16-23, 2007. It was compiled by Steve Harris and edited by Rich Perelman. The scoring criteria was changed slightly from our second report in 2006; many thanks to all who had comments or suggestions on how to make our rankings more meaningful.

How the rankings were calculated:

- A price survey was made of 140 cigar web sites (up from 95 in 2004 and 122 last year) using four widely-available "test" brands to measure general price levels:
 - Macanudo Baron de Rothschild (box of 25)
 - Montecristo Churchill (box of 25)
 - Punch Rothschild (box of 50)
 - Romeo y Julieta Bully (box of 25)
- Based on the results of this survey, 75 retailers who had all four were ranked in the order of average pricing. The top 25 sites qualified for further consideration. The remaining 65 retailers are listed below, ranked by test-brand pricing average for three, two, one or none of the test-brand cigars they carried.
- The top 25 sites based on the test-brand pricing average were scored with the top site receiving 75 points, the second site 74 points, the third site 73 points and so on down to 51 points for the no. 25 site. Thus, the four-cigar pricing average accounted for 75% of the final score.
- An additional category for breadth of brands (and distributors) carried was worth up to 15 points, one each for the following brands:
 - Arturo Fuente
 - Ashton
 - Avo
 - C.A.O.
 - Camacho
 - Carlos Torano
 - Fonseca
 - Joya de Nicaragua
 - La Aurora
 - La Flor Dominicana
 - Padron
 - Perdomo
 - Puros Indios
 - Rocky Patel
 - Zino Platinum
- A final category for shipping and handling costs was added, worth up to 10 points:
 - 10 points for fixed-price shipping of less than \$5.00 for the first item and less thereafter.
 - 8 points for fixed-price shipping of \$5.00-7.50 for the first item and/or free shipping for orders over \$100.00.
 - 6 points for fixed-price shipping of \$7.51-9.99 for the first item and less thereafter.
 - 4 points for fixed-price shipping of \$10.00 for the first item and less thereafter.
 - 2 points for shipping without mark-up using FedEx Ground, UPS or the U.S. Postal Service.
 - 1 point if the retailer ships out of its home state.
- The scores for pricing (75%), breadth (15%) and shipping (10%) were combined to calculate the final score, with a possible perfect score of 100.

Retailer	Final Rank	Website	City and State	4-Brand Pricing Average	(75%) 4-Brand Pricing Score	(15%) No. of Breadth Brands	(10%) Shipping & Handling Score	Overall Score (Best=100)
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The following 25 sites had the best multi-brand pricing averages and are ranked in order of overall score, including breadth of brands and shipping:

Mike's Cigars	1	www.mikescigars.com	Bay Harbor, FL	\$ 102.43	75	13	10	98
TNT Cigar	2	www.tntcigar.com/store	Phoenix, AZ	\$ 102.45	74	13	10	97
Tinderbox International	3	www.tinderbox.com	King of Prussia, PA	\$ 106.20	72	13	8	93
Best Cigar Prices	4	www.bestcigarprices.com	Stone Ridge, NY	\$ 104.55	73	15	2	90
Show Me Your Ash	4	www.showmeyourash.com	Fort Worth, TX	\$ 106.70	70	14	6	90
Cigars International	6	www.cigarsinternational.com	Bath, PA	\$ 107.21	68	15	6	89
Famous Smoke Shop	6	www.famous-smoke.com	Easton, PA	\$ 107.45	66	15	8	89
Atlantic Cigars	8	www.atlanticcigar.com	Elmsford, NY	\$ 106.36	71	15	2	88
Holts Cigar Company	9	www.holts.com	Philadelphia, PA	\$ 108.95	65	14	8	87
Bonita Smoke Shop	10	www.bonitasmokeshop.com	Bonita Springs, FL	\$ 106.75	69	15	2	86
Payless Cigars	11	www.payless-cigars.com	New Orleans, LA	\$ 108.95	64	14	6	84
Cigars-For-Less	12	www.cigars-for-less.com	Rehoboth, DE	\$ 111.45	59	15	8	82
JR Cigars	12	www.jrcigars.com	Burlington, NC	\$ 109.59	63	9	10	82
Mom's Cigars	12	www.cigarsuperstore.com	Somerset, NJ	\$ 107.35	67	7	8	82
Top Draw Cigar	15	www.topdrawcigars.com	St. John, IN	\$ 111.95	57	13	10	80
Cigar Place	16	www.cigarplace.biz	Miami, FL	\$ 109.70	62	15	2	79
Abner's World	16	www.abnersworld.com	Philadelphia, PA	\$ 111.65	58	15	6	79
Cheaper Cigars.com	18	www.cheapercigars.com	Palm Springs, CA	\$ 113.74	55	15	8	78
Black Cat Cigar Co.	19	www.blackcatcigars.com	Philadelphia, PA	\$ 112.95	56	13	6	75
Cigars-Now	20	www.cigars-now.com	Southborough, MA	\$ 116.95	51	14	8	73
Corona Cigar Co.	21	www.coronacigar.com	Orlando, FL	\$ 115.70	52	13	6	71
Discount Cigars Depot	22	www.discountcigardepot.com	Mt. Sinai, NY	\$ 114.25	54	8	8	70
All Brand Smoke	23	www.allbrandssmoke.com	Harrisburg, PA	\$ 110.63	61	5	2	68
Smokes-Spirits.Com	23	www.smokes-spirits.com	Salamanca, NY	\$ 110.74	60	6	2	68

The following 50 sites had all four of our price-test cigars are ranked in order of average pricing:

Nice Ash Cigars	26	www.niceashcigars.com	Lancaster, NY	\$ 117.32
Lil' Brown Smoke Shack	27	www.lilbrown.com	Yakima, WA	\$ 118.76
Brookelynn Fine Cigars	28	www.brookelynnncigars.com	Wilmington, NC	\$ 119.11
White Ash Cigar Co.	29	www.whiteash.com	Tempe, AZ	\$ 120.70
Rocky's Cigars	30	www.rockyscigars.com	Syracuse, NY	\$ 120.79
Superior Cigars	31	www.superiorcigars.com	Suffolk, NY	\$ 121.97
Discount Cigars.Com	32	www.discountcigars.com	South Norwalk, CT	\$ 121.99
Elite Cigars	33	www.elitecigars.com	Happauge, NY	\$ 122.10
Cigar-ette City	34	www.cigar-ettecity.com	Newark, DE	\$ 122.95
JM Cigars	35	www.jmcigars.com	Exton, PA	\$ 123.20
Serious Cigars	36	www.seriouscigars.com	Houston, TX	\$ 124.50
Firehouse Tobacco	37	www.firehousetobacco.com	Philadelphia, PA	\$ 125.93
Cigar Sampler.com	38	www.cigarsampler.com	New Castle, PA	\$ 126.74
Heroes & Legacies	39	www.heroesandlegacies.com	Austin, TX	\$ 127.25
Cigarbox, The	40	www.the-cigarbox.com	Upton, MA	\$ 127.72
Egars.com	41	www.egars.com	Webster, NY	\$ 128.46
Cigar Baron	42	www.cigarbaron.com	Seabrook, NH	\$ 128.90
Cigar Supply.Com	43	www.cigarsupply.com	Columbia, MD	\$ 130.92
ABC Cigars	44	www.abccigar.com	Revere, MA	\$ 130.95
CVM Cigars	45	www.cvmcigars.com	Miami, FL	\$ 131.20
Gotham Cigars	46	www.gothamcigars.com	Miami, FL	\$ 131.50
Happy Jack's	47	www.happyjacksonline.com	Laconia, NH	\$ 132.03
Phoenix Cigar Company	48	www.phoenixcigar.com	Phoenix, AZ	\$ 132.68
W. Curtis Draper	49	www.draperstobacco.com	Washington, DC	\$ 132.75
Top Hat Cigar	50	www.tophatcigars.com	Kirkwood, MO	\$ 134.17
Pipes and Cigars	51	www.pipesandcigars.com	Albany, NY	\$ 134.80
Tobacco World	52	www.tobaccoworldcigars.com	Pompano, FL	\$ 134.99
Hemingway's Fine Cigars	53	www.hwcigars.com	Highwood, IL	\$ 135.75
Smokers Brand	54	www.smokersbrand.com	Southampton, NY	\$ 136.00
Factory Direct Cigars	55	www.factorydirectcigars.com	Wellington, FL	\$ 136.68
El Fumador	56	www.elfumador.com	Sewickly, PA	\$ 137.26
Fogies Stogies	57	www.fogiesstogies.com	Sioux Falls, SD	\$ 138.12
Cigarhead's Fine Cigars	58	www.cigarheads.com	Greenfield, IN	\$ 138.29
Jack Schwartz	59	www.jackscwartz.com	Chicago, IL	\$ 141.50
Capital Cigar Source	60	www.capitalcigarsource.com	Columbia, MD	\$ 142.95
eCigar Depot	61	www.ecigardepot.com	Tallahassee, FL	\$ 143.98
Cigar.Com	62	www.cigar.com	Bath, PA	\$ 144.46
Georgetown Tobacco	63	www.gtobacco.com	Washington, DC	\$ 145.98
Cigar Palace	64	www.cigarpalace.com	Alexandria, VA	\$ 147.66
Cigar Express	65	www.cigarexpress.com	New Castle, PA	\$ 148.87
Uptown Cigar	66	www.uptowncigar.com	Kingston, NY	\$ 149.00
Cigar Hut	67	www.cigarsforless.com	Miami, FL	\$ 149.45
2 Guys Smoke Shop	68	www.2guysmokeshop.com	Salem, NH	\$ 149.74
Virtual Cigar Shop, A	69	www.vcigar.com	Scottsdale, AZ	\$ 149.86
Three Little Indians	70	www.threelittleindians.com	New York, NY	\$ 149.95
Cigar Store, The	71	www.thecigarstore.com	San Ramon, CA	\$ 151.09
ZT Cigars	72	www.ztcigars.com	Oklahoma City, OK	\$ 151.25
Finck Cigar Company	73	www.finckcigarcompany.com	San Antonio, TX	\$ 152.20
Cigar Light	74	www.cigarlight.com	Laguna Beach, CA	\$ 156.81
Thompson Cigar	75	www.thompsoncigar.com	Tampa, FL	\$ 165.25

These sites had less than four of our test cigars and did not qualify for further ranking:

Wabash Cigar Store	(3)	www.wabash-cigar.com	Terre Haute, IN
Billboard Tobacco	(3)	www.billboardtobacco.com	New Smyrna Beach, FL
The Cigar Humidor.Com	(3)	www.thecigarhumidor.com	Chicago, IL
Nick's Cigar World	(3)	www.nickscigarworld.com	North Myrtle Beach, SC
Cigars Direct	(3)	www.cigarsdirect.com	Pembroke Pines, FL
H & I Cigars	(3)	www.hismokers.com	Canton, MI
Cigar Reserve	(3)	www.cigarreserve.com	Beaverton, OR
Buy My Cigars	(3)	www.buymycigars.com	Boston, MA
Smoke Shop, The	(3)	www.naplessmokeshop.com	Naples, FL
Show Me Cigars	(3)	www.showmecigars.com	Joplin, MO
O' Sullivan Cigars	(3)	www.cigarbest.com	Bay Area, CA
Iwan Ries & Co.	(3)	www.iwanries.com	Chicago, IL

Harbor Cigars	(3)	www.harborcigars.com	Destin, FL
Cascade Cigar	(3)	www.cascadecigar.com	Portland, OR
Old Virginia Tobacco Co.	(3)	www.ovtc.com	Dulles, VA
Smoker's Depot	(3)	www.dukecitycigars.com	Albuquerque, NM
MD Cigars	(3)	www.mdcigars.com	Yuma, AZ
eSmokes	(2)	www.esmokes.com	Reston, VA
Neptune Cigars	(2)	www.neptunecigars.com	Pompano, FL
L. Lynn Cigars	(2)	www.lynncigars.com	Marengo, IL
RE Cigars	(2)	www.recigars.com	Nashville, TN
The Squire	(2)	www.thesquirewv.com	Charleston, WV
Tarheel Cigars	(2)	www.tarheelcigars.com	Waynesville, NC
Anthony's Little Cigar Co.	(2)	www.lacigar.com	Auburn, AL
Camino Viejo Tabacos	(2)	www.caminoviejo.com	Tallahassee, FL
Tobacco Locker	(2)	www.tobaccolocker.com	Tallahassee, FL
Michael's Cigars	(1)	www.michaelscigars.com	Asheboro, NC
Tobacco Shop, The	(1)	www.thetobaccoshop.com	Indianapolis, IN
Hiland Trading Company	(1)	www.hilandtrading.com	Scottsdale, AZ
Lucky's Cigars	(1)	www.luckycigars.com	Norcross, GA
Exceptional Cigar	(1)	www.exceptionalcigar.com	Ridgefield, CT
Cigar Exchange Intl.	(1)	www.cigar-exchange.com	Upland, CA
Up Down Cigar	(1)	www.updowncigar.com	Chicago, IL
Lord's Tobacco	(1)	www.lordstobacco.com	New Wilmington, PA

These sites either had none of our test cigars or do not show pricing:

Avila Cigars		www.aviliacigars.com	Miami, FL
Capitol Cigar Company		www.capitolcigarcompany.com	North Bergen, NJ
Cigar Fix.Com		www.cigarfix.com	Orlando, FL
E.A. Carey		www.eacarey.com	North Canton, OH
Educated Cigar, LLC		www.educatedcigar.com	Tri-Cities, MA
Federal Cigar		www.federalcigar.com	Portsmouth, NH
I Like Cigars		www.ilikecigars.com	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Jerri's Tobacco Shop		www.denvercigars.com	Denver, CO
Key West Havana Cigar		www.keywestcigars.com	Key West, FL
King Corona Cigars		www.kingcoronacigars.com	Tampa, FL
Knoxville Cigar Co.		www.knoxcigar.com	Knoxville, TN
Lighthouse Cigars		www.lighthousecigars.com	Hazlet, NJ
Luis Martinez		www.luismartinez.com	Tampa, FL
MJM Fine Cigars		www.mjmfinecigars.com	Palm Harbor, FL
Padrino Cigars		www.padrinocigars.com	Fort Worth, TX
Ricardo's Cigar Shop		www.ricardoscigar.com	Lyndell, PA
SmokeAll.Com		www.smokeall.com	Mitchell, SD
Tampa Sweethearts Cigars		www.tampasweetheart.com	Tampa, FL
Tower Pipes and Cigars		www.towercigars.com	Sacramento, CA
Indulge Cigars Online		www.indulgecigars.com	Scotia, NY

The following sites were not operating properly at the time of our test:

A & I Cigars		www.aandicigars.com	Westwood, MA
AMD Cigars		www.amdcigars.com	Whitinsville, MA
Beachside Cigars		www.beachsidecigars.com	Huntington Beach, CA
Cigar 2 U		www.cigar2u.com	Kissimmee, FL
Cigars by the Box		www.bythebox.com	Allen Park, MI
Dee's Fine Cigars		www.c-gar.com	Birmingham, AL
Great Cigars		www.great-cigars.com	Granville, OH
Owl Shop		www.owlshop.com	Worcester, MA
PickACigar.Com		www.pickacigar.com	Unknown
R & R Tobacco		www.rrtobacco.com	Girard, OH
Smokey's Cigar Shop		www.smokeycigars.com	Bloomfield Hills, MI
