



## Beer Basics Beer and Cigar Descriptors

The words used to describe a beer are very important when reading up on tasting notes, especially when you have not had the beer before. For example, the **Augustijn Ale** is described as spicy, malty and fruity. When opening a bottle of **Augustijn**, you pick up an aroma of tropical fruit. Then, after the first few tastes, it can become citrusy up-front with an underlying sweet spice taste. Some flavored cigars might pair well with this beer, perhaps something from **Drew Estates** or **Acid Cigars**.

Here is another good tip – when you have not had the beer before, take a few sips before lighting a cigar up so you can pair them better. The key word descriptor here was ‘fruity.’ If you are not into flavored cigars, try pairing the **Augustijn** with a **Man O War Torpedo** for its full spice and woody undertones. With the citrus flavors in the ale, an oak smoked cheddar cheese would go well with this and that got me to the **Man O War** with its oaky woody notes. Therefore, you can also tie your pairing into what type of meal you plan to enjoy.



Can the **Gulden Draak Tripel** stand up to a cigar? Of course! You often hear about toffee or caramel sweetness when this delicious ale is mentioned. So, coffee-like flavors from your cigar should provide a great pairing. A medium to full bodied ale needs a medium to full bodied cigar. The point system still applies, but you must also playing the word game. A great selection would be a **Padilla 68 Salomon**, a beautiful

7 X 58 cigar known for its cedar-like character but also its, sweet and earthy side with a hint of coffee. For some, drinking **Gulden Draak** all by itself can be overwhelming with the sweet, dessert-like flavor notes. If that's the case, a quality cigar should take the edge off!

Using the point scale to chart your taste on fine Belgian beers and cigars will help you to maximize your pleasures, and using the word description approach will help you to find even better compatibility.

Respect your beer and cigar. Don't set yourself up for a collision in taste - maximize your pleasure!