



# Beer Basics Beer and Cigar Pairing

Whether it's wine, liquor, or a quality Belgian beer, you need to match your cigar to the beverage for maximum pleasure. As stated on the **Global Beer Network** website, under '**Beer 101 – Belgian Beer & Cigars**,' "...tasting depends on many factors: the cigar you smoke, your personal taste, what you have eaten before." Also, consider what beer you plan to drink and if you are eating while smoking or not.

First we will take a look at the point scale system.

Try to think of taste in a zero to ten scale, zero being very mild to ten very strong and robust. This has nothing to do with the cigar's quality, just its taste. Start charting your taste on different cigars, then rate them from zero to ten. For example, a **Don Lino Natural** or a **Macanudo** would score a zero for very mild. A **Camacho**, in general, would score 9 or a 10, for very robust. Do the same for the beer as well - a zero for a domestic beer especially 'light' beers with light bodies and then a 9 or 10 for darker, heavier beers such as porters and stouts. Once charted, you can use that taste number as a guide, and go two numbers in either direction for matching your cigar with a particular beer.



If your beer is a 4 on this scale, you'd want your cigar to be within two points from this tasting. This gives you a range from a two (mild) to a 6 (medium). The beer flavor will not be lost in this range. Whereas, if you chose a cigar with an 8 score (fuller), it would over-power the beer and the flavor would not be maximized. So, if you're smoking a cigar that's an 8, you'd want to select a beer that would be a 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

Let's take a look. The **Wittekerke Belgian Wheat Ale** would score a 4, on the mild side of medium, a very pleasant tasting wheat ale that would be wonderful on a hot day. Also, there aren't any strong spicy flavors from this beer, just pure wheat beer pleasure. Therefore, you do not want too strong of a cigar where it overwhelms the beverage or a too mild of a cigar where you can lose the smoking pleasure. A nice balanced Cameroon cigar or a Connecticut wrapped cigar would do. You could also try a **Wittekerke** with a **Leon Jimenes Cameroon 300**, it's a magical combination.

If you're looking to step it up, try the **Piraat Ale** with a **Don Lino Africa Kiboko**, a 6.5 x 58 ring gage beauty. The full flavor of the cigar was paired perfectly with the hearty flavor of the **Piraat**. Which reminds me – it's time to fill the chalice one more time!