



© 19 December 2019, 13:36 (CET)



## OFFICIAL OPENING OF TABOLISA 1 FACILITY

December 19th, 2019

**Oliva Cigars has announced it will officially open the doors of its impressive Nicaraguan Tabolisa 1 facility at a special inauguration ceremony in Esteli.**

The occasion marks the end of a three-year project, which began in November 2016 with the commencement of construction on the new facility, in Esteli Nicaragua. In 2017 they finished the box factory, end of last year Tabolisa 2 and now the main factory Tabolisa 1. The project was designed to increase efficiency and capacity for the production of Oliva Cigars.

From 2020, the Tabolisa 1 (“Tabolisa UNO”) facility will increase its cigar production capacity significantly, but there are mainly expansions for employee health facilities, cigar storage, packaging, freezing and ageing rooms.

The new building increases the capacity of the leaf curing and fermentation processing area from 50 pilones of tobacco to 100.

Phase one also included making more room for increasing the numbers of leaf pre-selection stage, from 30 to 80 employees; expanding the packaging area; increasing the finished product cool storage warehouse capacity from two 40ft containers to eight; the incorporation of new freezers; more space in the cigar ageing room; increasing the size of the packaging warehouse from 400sqft to 6,800sqft and the provision of a new 500KW generator that brings the facility to full capacity.

This first phase was completed by December 2018, since when the focus has been on renovations to the existing site building.

Speaking at the grand opening ceremony planned for December 18, 2019, J. Cortès owner Fred Vandemarliere said:

“The Oliva family offered our family a real gem by selling Oliva Cigars to us. Without them, we would never be where we are now. But to let a diamond shine, you need to work it. We try to do this with care... and the opening of Tabolisa Uno is a clear example of this promise. Cory, Fidel and their team did a fantastic job in making sure we got this facility to the level we want to have it.

We want to make good cigars with love... It seems easy to say, but we proof here that we thought about all three words in this sentence:

**Good:** quality is and stays a number one priority in everything we do. We are aware that someone who sits down, relaxes and wants to enjoy a good cigar does not want to compromise on quality. We don’t want to destroy this holy moment; we want to embrace it and give a perfect product. Therefore, we invested in extra capacity in both our fermentation and aging rooms. A cigar is a natural product and time is one of the most important elements to make it good... We now have extra space to give extra time...

**Cigars:** if you want to enjoy a cigar, you need to find it in a shop. Bigger is not better, but if people want to find our cigars all over the world, we need to make sure we have them available... as such we are happy to have the space now to make more cigars if needed.

**Love:** a cigar is a very sensitive product... very easy to screw it up, even if you have the perfect quality. The work people do inside this facility is amazing and needs all possible appreciation. We want to put our hand where our mouth is by giving them the best possible environment to work in: Good lightning, space to work, cosy breakrooms and finally a clinic for primary healthcare if needed. We are sure we and you all will get this back in the love they will put every day in making the best possible cigars in the world.

This opening and investment demonstrates our commitment to Nicaragua and, in particular, to our belief in the future of Oliva's premium cigars.

To end, just a little thought: We know we make a product that can damage your health. But we don't only clearly advice to smoke with moderation, we also think that there are positive effects of enjoying a good cigar. We think cigar smoking could be a good medicine for burn-outs... People are always connected, our brains are running very fast. This is fantastic and makes that this world turns around faster. There is a flipside of the coin though... it can be too much. Disconnection of this hectic world is therefore more and more a necessity. A cigar can, among other things like, be the perfect medium for this disconnection. That's why we keep on saying: #dontsmokebutenjoy!!"

To celebrate this opening, Oliva will come with a limited edition of the 5.000 first Oliva Serie V Double Robusto's ever made in this new environment. They are all individually numbered and packed in a unique box having the same design as the new factory.





---

#### ABOUT J. CORTÈS

J. Cortès is a family run company with a passion for cigars. Cigars in all shapes and sizes. It's a never-ending story of dedication and craftsmanship that started in 1926. Don't smoke but enjoy! Our prime brands are J. Cortes, Country, Neos and Amigos. For the major European countries we have strong in-house sales teams; for other markets our brands are in the hands of our export managers and sold over 80 countries globally. In 2016 CEO Fredje fell in love with artisanal cigar company Oliva Cigars, based in the US and Nicaragua. A business marriage was set and it turned out to be the party of the year. The Cortès family business now spreads across two continents.

Don't smoke but enjoy!



J. Cortès