

# CIGAR & SPIRITS

THE GENTLEMAN'S LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

MARCH/APRIL 2017

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## BEHIND *the* LEAF

# DANIEL MARSHALL

by Randy Mastronicola

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Daniel Marshall is one of the most recognizable cigar ambassadors in the industry. His humidors are amongst the most sought-after in the world and he's been regarded as a "master craftsman" since the 1980's. Daniel's humidors and accessories have been purchased, gifted and housed by celebrities, politicians and other luminaries for many years.

Daniel has become a formidable cigar maker in his own right. His brand includes the Red Label, Black Label and White Label. They've been developed into a prestigious portfolio. Daniel is the architect of the 24kt. Golden Cigar and it has become known as the "ultimate celebration cigar."

Randy Mastronicola, Editor-in-Chief of *Cigar & Spirits Magazine*, recently interviewed Daniel about his affiliation with Glenfiddich Whisky and what's on the horizon for the company.





*“To connect with people in all walks of life and learn about their stories is what inspires me. It excites me to start each day, as if it was my first in the industry.”*

Randy Mastronicola: You’ve described our cigar culture as “the modern day campfire.” What currently inspires you as a leader in the industry?

Daniel Marshall: I’m driven daily, even after 35 years in this wonderful world of cigars, to meet as many people and share golden moments around the metaphoric campfire. I enjoy learning about cigar lovers around the world. It’s global from Africa to Beirut, from China to our home in the USA. To connect with people in all walks of life and learn about their stories is what inspires me. It excites me to start each day, as if it was my first in the industry. It’s a true love that I believe most cigar enthusiasts understand.

How did your partnership with Glenfiddich come about?

As with everything in my life, all roads lead to the cigar. Lucky was the day when I received a call from a friend who writes for London’s Financial Times Newspaper. She said, “Daniel...think whisky and cigars! I want you to meet my friend Kirsten Grant, great great granddaughter of William Grant, founder of Glenfiddich and Balvenie.” It took off from there and I refer to my friend now as my “whisky angel.”

From my meeting with Ms. Grant, I’ve learned to love her most-awarded single malt whiskies. I’ve seen first hand at her distillery and the parallels between whisky crafting and cigar making. Tasting cigars and sipping whisky is one of the most sublime experiences you’ll have. I believe in these two pleasures and the combination is rewarding. It creates a symphony of tastes where the whisky brings out more cigar profile and the cigar draws out more flavor from the whisky. Our friendship has led us to the never-before-sold, impossible to buy, 50 year old whisky stave barrels. These are finishing casks for Balvenie 21. We use them to create our collectible Balvenie whisky stave humidor.

Did you specifically develop the DM Red Label Cigar with Glenfiddich in mind?

We created the DM Red Label Box-Aged 1 year with two cigar masters. They have a combined experience of 10 generations between them. I don’t know of many cigar brands that can bring that to the table. They have so many years, such passion for their cigars. Thanks to Nestor Plasencia and Manolo Quesada, we can maintain the consistency we’re known for. The amount of work it takes to make it happen is incredible.

*“The overall highlight your readers can expect to enjoy is the beautiful enhancement of the taste profiles of both the cigar and the whisky. It’s magnificent.”*

How readily available is the tasting cigar?

It’s offered on a special request basis. We offer it in small numbers so they can be experienced at special events. We pair this unique multi-blended cigar with 12, 18 and 21-year old Glenfiddich Whisky. People love these events. They get to learn and experience so much more about cigars and whisky.

What highlights should a *Cigar & Spirits Magazine* reader expect to enjoy with this pairing?

The overall highlight your readers can expect to enjoy is the beautiful enhancement of the taste profiles of both the cigar and the whisky. It’s magnificent.

When will future Daniel Marshall/Glenfiddich Tasting Cigar Events be offered to the cigar universe?

We’ve partnered on events abroad in London and Beirut, Lebanon. In the USA, we’ve launched in Pennsylvania, Beverly Hills and Alabama.

We’ll be announcing a United Sates tasting tour very soon and we’ll be rolling out our Daniel Marshall/Glenfiddich events worldwide, too. It’s open to whisky stores, cocktail lounges, bars and cigar lounges.

What should we be on the lookout for from DM for the rest of 2017?

2017 marks our 35th year in the cigar world. We’re making a limited number of Whisky Barrel Cigar Humidors. Each humidor includes 17 DM for Glenfiddich Whisky Tasting Cigars. Additionally, we have a 35th year commemorative humidor and a 35th year cigar and small batch special single malt whisky. We’re fortunate to celebrate this “Golden Campfire Moment” with valued clients and friends.

Thank you, Daniel. It’s always fascinating to learn what you’re up to.

It’s been a pleasure, Randy. Thank you and your readers for having me share my thoughts.

DanielMarshall.com ●