

Marshall law

Daniel Marshall is synonymous with high-end humidors and the cigars that go in them. **Colin Hampden-White** gets a flavour for the man's drive and enthusiasm

Daniel Marshall

Photo: Colin Hampden-White



Daniel Marshall and his cigar favourites

Photo: Colin Hampden-White

In the cigar world, there is definitely an old guard of traditional brands and Cuban cigars, but for a few years now there has been an infiltrator of flavour to this status quo and it comes from Daniel Marshall.

Cigars are an addition to Daniel's main craft, which is making the most beautiful humidors in the world. These range from small, elegant boxes to be carried or taken travelling, to large boxes holding more than 100 cigars and whole rooms, such as the Daniel Marshall Cigar Lounge in the Kitzbühel Country Club.

Daniel took his first humidor to Alfred Dunhill in 1982, asking for his opinion. For most people, this encounter would have halted their desire to continue because Alfred inspected the humidor with meticulous eyes and told Daniel what needed to change. Daniel took the information away and, equally meticulously, went back to his workshop in Tustin, California. He rebuilt the humidor, brought it back to Dunhill and the rest, as they say, is history.

I don't think I have met a man with as much enthusiasm, drive and pride as Daniel for something he started to produce more than 30 years ago. His enjoyment of life – and the people passing through his – is infectious. It's hard not to have a good time in his company, with his broad, gleaming Californian smile and the ever-present stick between his teeth.

Now famed not only for his fabulous humidors but also his exquisite cigars, Daniel's humidors are an exclusive product and his client list includes presidents, Hollywood stars and the British royal family. *Cigar Aficionado* Magazine named Daniel its top humidor specialist. He has made humidors from all sorts of wonderful materials, including solid gold, exotic woods, alligator skin and whisky-cask staves. This last material is, to my mind, the perfect match. Cigars are inextricably linked to whisky, so Daniel made a humidor with staves from an ex-port cask that had then been used for whisky. Keeping your cigars in this humidor

gives their flavour another dimension and the sweet smell of the wood greatly enhances the experience of the smoke.

I say smoke, but to quote Daniel, "we don't smoke, we taste". He goes on to quote Winston Churchill: "My tastes are simple: I am easily satisfied with the best".

It's this drive for perfection that helps him deliver fabulous flavours. This year he went even further with his quest for flavour. He created a cigar to be smoked with various aged single malts. The first section of the DM Red Label cigar is blended with a Connecticut shade wrapper leaf grown in Ecuador in 2010, to complement Glenfiddich 12 year old. The second section features a Broadleaf Maduro wrapper leaf grown in Pennsylvania in 2010, to complement Glenfiddich 18 year old. The final section is blended with a Sun Grown Sumatra/Indonesia leaf grown in 2010, to complement Glenfiddich 21 year old.

These special cigars were made in Nicaragua for Daniel Marshall and Glenfiddich and aged for six months in Davidoff of London's humidor.

Beyond Daniel's drive for flavour, there is also a desire to have fun. His humidors have been linked to films, such as *Scarface* and *Terminator*, both of which have cigar-loving main characters. Actors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Al Pacino are also well known for enjoying a cigar.

Speaking of Arnie, a humidor was designed in collaboration with Schwarzenegger to celebrate the release of *Terminator Genisys*, which launched in July 2015. During Marshall's visit to the set in May 2014, Schwarzenegger came up with the idea of using the endoskeleton skull on

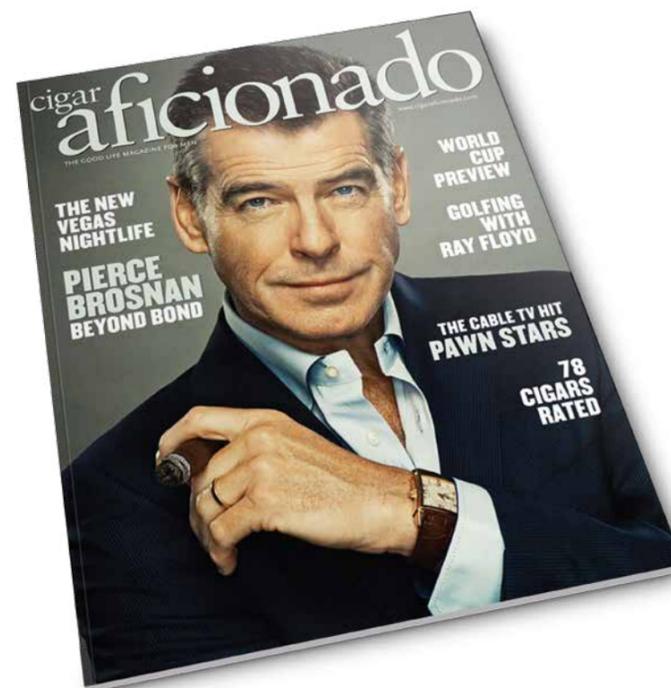
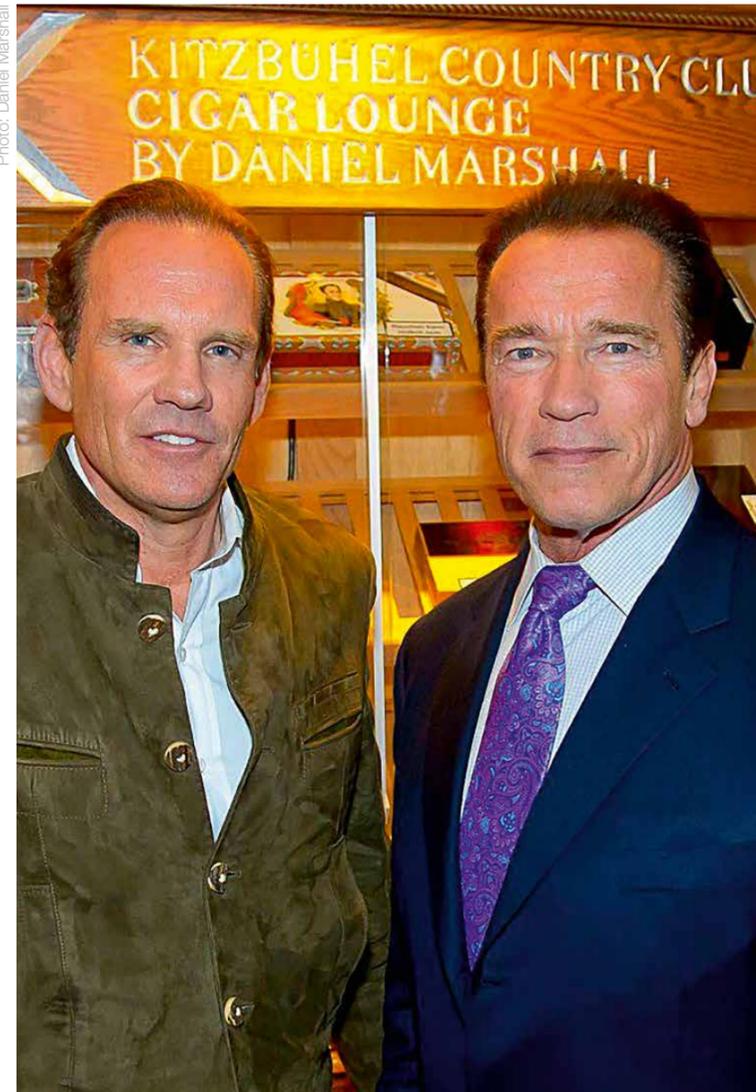


Photo: Daniel Marshall



Daniel Marshall with Arnold Schwarzenegger on cigar lounge humidor opening in Kitzbühel Country Club Reith 2013

the humidor. Legacy Effects, the special-effects studio that created the Terminator endoskeleton skull for the movie, were duly asked to make one specifically to use on the humidor to raise money for charity.

A total of 10 humidors will be available for sale to the public. Proceeds from the sale of this special-edition humidor will benefit the charity After-School All-Stars (ASAS), founded by Schwarzenegger to provide after-school programmes that help keep children safe and assist them to succeed in school and life.

Meanwhile, a never-sold, limited-edition humidor handcrafted by Daniel Marshall was due to be auctioned at this year's Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF) annual gala.





Photo: Daniel Marshall

Daniel Marshall with Al Pacino – Scarface reunion event in Los Angeles 2011

Held at the Domaine Bertaud Belieu vineyard in St Tropez, France, the Foundation's third event featured the humidor packed full of Governor Schwarzenegger Signature Daniel Marshall Red Label Churchill Nicaraguan cigars. Also included were two Daniel Marshall 24-karat Red Label Golden Torpedo cigars and Davidoff Special "R" Dominican cigars. To complement these goodies, Schwarzenegger donated his custom-designed Lucchese leather boots and a replica Terminator endoskeleton skull.

The Daniel Marshall humidor never reached the live auction as it pre-sold for the princely sum of €750,000 (£640,000) during the preliminary release of the auction catalogue, before the gala. The humidor and cigars went to a Russian billionaire who could not attend the event.

To quote Daniel, "we don't smoke, we taste"

This "one of one" humidor, crafted in California, required four months to create. It was hand-carved from solid American alder harvested from a renewable forest. The design idea was Schwarzenegger's own, evoking the look and feel of old wood beams and flooring reminiscent of his home in the mountains. The gold-enamelled governor seal inlay on top of this masterpiece is unique. Unlike the US presidential seal, the governor's seal changes with each governor's turn in office, making the 38th Governor of California seal unique to Schwarzenegger.

In the UK, DM Red Label cigars are available from Boisdale of Canary Wharf; Davidoff of London, St James's Street; and Edward Sahakian Lounge at the Bulgari Hotel, in the following vitolas:

- Petit Corona 4¼in x 42
- Corona 5½in x 44
- Robusto 5½in x 52
- Panatela "Papa Joe" 6in x 38
- Grand 6in x 60
- Torpedo 6¼in x 54
- Churchill 7in x 48.

Daniel Marshall's Golden cigar can also be found in James J Fox, St James's Street; Harrods and Selfridges. His humidors grace a number of cigar shops around the world – for a full list, take a look at his website: danielmarshall.com ◆



Gold cigar

Photo: Daniel Marshall



Photo: Colin Hampden-White