



Cigar Ratings... What do they even mean?

INTERVIEW WITH EDDIE ORTEGA
INTRODUCING THE BLOGGERS CORNER



Shelly's Back Room - Washington, DC

Less than 3 blocks down from The White House, **Shelly's Back Room** has become a mainstay among cigar smokers in the DC area. Originally owned by Shelly Jacobs, this classic retreat was designed to resemble the characteristics of an old fashioned hunting lodge in the Northern Midwest. Carved out of the chain of restaurants called Shelly's Woodroast, the D.C. and Chicago locations were the only of the group to have a separate lounge referred to as "The Back Room".

Shelly's is not your typical cigar bar. Like most bars they have a well stocked assortment of bourbon, Scotch, beer and wine. They also have a full food menu designed around basic, but delicious, American style cuisine. Among the favorites are the Shelly's Burger and the Campfire Wings.

Due to smoking bans and restrictions placed on the city by its local government, **Shelly's is the only real cigar bar left in D.C. and they have no plans on leaving any time soon.** Shelly's recently underwent a \$700k renovation which included taking over the location next door. Part of the cost was to ensure the new section maintained the same look and feel as the existing space. According to Shelly's owners, "We also added 102 additional private humidors. I think we replicated the ambiance of Shelly's and enhanced our ventilation system. The room is adjacent to our current space but also separate enough to give it a cozy feel and also providing a separate area for private events."

Shelly's house humidors, which consists of a wide variety of cigars are provided by W. Curtis Draper Tobacconist, the nation's third oldest tobacconist; which is located just half a block away. Their menu clearly labels each cigar by strength to help customers to determine which one may be best for them. The staff is also well trained in the characteristics and subtleties of each cigar to ensure you get one perfectly matched to your palate. Want to bring your own cigars? No problem. Shelly's welcomes you to not only bring your own, but also has private humidified lockers available for annual lease.

On a typical night, Shelly's is the place to be, sometimes filling every seat in the now larger space. With its generous drink and portion sizes, well kept facilities and friendly atmosphere, it's no mystery why people come back on a regular basis. Unlike many businesses that adapt to the current trends, Shelly's Back Room prefers to adapt to its customer base making changes only when needed and when it will benefit their guests. Shelly's is also well equipped to handle events of any size having played hosts to many kinds from manufacturer events to charity events hosted by celebrities such as Arnold Schwarzenegger.

With casual, but tasteful décor, friendly service, great food and an inviting space, Shelly's Back Room is a must visit if you are in the D.C. area. With its close proximity to many of the nation's museums, it's a welcome retreat on your next business trip or family vacation.