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Focus on Business

CIGAR BODEGA
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 205 Main Street (905)
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The newest trend is cigar smoking
Celebrities have made the relaxing activity popular with everyone

Cigar smoking is no longer a pastime for rich, old men – it has now become the activity of choice adults of all ages. "Cigar Aficionado (a cigar magazine) is, in a way, responsible for the big boom (in cigar smoking)," said Sarah Iles, the proprietor of Cigar Bodega, the new store in Unionville that sells wide selection of cigars and cigar accessories.

"The publication started profiling celebrities ... and that is when the trend" started.

Iles said everyone can afford to smoke cigars (in her store, they range in price from \$1.60 a cigar to over \$76) and it is a relaxing thing to do.

But smoking a cigar is different from cigarette smoking.

Addiction isn't a factor in cigar smoking, said Iles. That's because there is only a two per cent nicotine level in cigars and people don't inhale the smoke.

And while cigarette smokers can enjoy a cigarette in five minutes, a cigar has to be savoured and usually takes between 20 minutes to an hour to finish (depending on the size).

"It's usually associated with a relaxing pastime because people have to take the time to enjoy it."

A lot of people smoke cigars on a golf course, during special occasions or after dinner with a coffee and after-dinner drink. (Food and drink compliment the taste of a cigar, she said.)

And that prompted Iles, who is a cigar smoker herself, to open up her elegant store along Main Street Unionville.

Painted a warm green, the walls of the spacious store are lined with oak cabinets displaying hundreds of cigars.

At the back of the store, customers are encouraged to enjoy a coffee and a cigar in a lounge that is separated from the rest of the store by oak French doors.

The lounge has leather couches and armchairs as well as a 1930s radio that works.

People can also rent this area for meetings and other private functions.

Over 50 brands of cigars, lots of accessories and tons of knowledge
 Cigar Bodega targets people along the Hwy 7 area of Markham, Richmond Hill and Thornhill as well as people from Stouffville and Uxbridge.



Sarah Iles carries over 50 brands of cigars from places like Mexico and the Netherlands.

Photo by LISA CARTWRIGHT

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Cigar Bodega is located at 205 Main Street Unionville. There is lots of free parking behind the store.
For details call 513-1810. The store is presently open from 11 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday and 11 am to 5 pm on Sundays.