



Salvatore J. Fontana

October 18, 1925 - February 2, 2011

Sal Fontana,
Premium Cigar Importer, Creator of the La Fontana Cigar Brand.

Sal Fontana, often known as the patriarch of the premium imported cigar industry, died on February 2, in Palm Beach, Florida. The Brooklyn, New York native and Jupiter, Florida resident was 86.

A 62 year veteran of the tobacco industry, Fontana, a father of six children and a WWII veteran, started his career as a New York City-based cigarette salesman in the late forties when smoking was still glamorized and before the U.S. Surgeon General issued its controversial warning in 1964 on the hazards of smoking. Fontana went on to hold executive sales positions with the then-known American Tobacco Company (maker of Lucky Strike cigarettes and Roi-Tan cigars) and House of Edgeworth tobacco firm (maker of pipe tobacco and the Casa Buena cigar lines) before co-founding his own cigar importing company in the seventies. That Miami-based company, later known as Camacho Cigars, is now part of Swiss-owned Davidoff.

During his career Fontana created such popular imported cigar brands as Baccarat, Montoya, National Brand and the La Fontana, all of which were hand-made in Honduras or the Dominican Republic. He was well known and well respected by both his customers and competitors. The cigars that he was

credited for delivering to the market survived and even thrived during times of economic recession as well as throughout the boom economic times, especially in the late nineties when cigar smoking enjoyed a surge of popularity with younger professionals.

Born Salvatore Joseph Fontana to Italian immigrant parents on January 18, 1925, Fontana later moved from Brooklyn to Long Island, and then to Jupiter, Florida. He was a 1948 graduate of Fordham University.

Fontana is survived by his children John Fontana, David Fontana, Robert Fontana, James Fontana and Bonnie Roberto. He is also survived by his 16 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. His wife of 55 years, Connie Fontana, died in 2005. He is also predeceased by his son, Stephen Fontana.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated at 10 AM, Saturday, February 12, 2011 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 19351 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. Friends are invited to meet with the family from 2-4 & 6-8 PM, Friday, Feb. 11 at the Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, 250 Center St., Jupiter, FL. The U.S. Army will conduct Military Honors following the Mass. For directions & online condolences, please visit www.taylorandmodeen.com.

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home
Family Owned & Operated
(561) 744-2030, Jupiter, FL

Tribute Wall



“ *Salvatore J. Fontana*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *We will miss seeing you walk your little Bambi, your charm, humour, conversations and good advice. You and Connie were a great couple and fun to be around. You were a good neighbor one of the greatest who will be in our hearts forever. Much Love, Marcia, John and Zac Aldridge*

marcia and john aldrige - jupiter, FL - neighbor - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Jim and the Fontana Family,*

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. I know how difficult it can be to lose a loved one. It sounds like he lived a full life as a successful businessman, father, husband and grandfather. You have to be so proud of his success and the legacy he has left behind! Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Salvatore Fontana, you, and your family!

*God Bless,
Phil and Elizabeth*

Phillip and Elizabeth Panzarella - Burke, VA - Friend of Jim's at Easter Seals -
February 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Sal was a mentor to so many in the business. I was about to call it quits until Sal gave me a chance at Caribe Imported Cigars. His words of wisdom, sense of humor and caring nature will truly be missed.

God Bless you all! Now Sal is with his beloved Connie.

Sincerely,
Jill Hoffman

Jill Hoffman - Scottsdale, AZ - February 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Bonnie, I am so sorry to hear of your father's passing. I know you loved and admired him with all your heart. He was so unbelievably full of life and could run circles around those much younger than himself. He leaves a great legacy and you should be proud to be his daughter. We love you all and wish we could be there with you during this difficult time. Hugs and Kisses to you, Rich and the girls and the pooches too! Judy and Rachel Duff

Judy Duff - friend - February 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Sorry to here of Sals passing. He was a Great Person and Mentor to many in the Industry. He always shot straight from the hip, whether it was what you wanted to hear or not. I send my codolances to his kids and rest assured that he is right were he should be with Connie. May God Bless, You and Yours.

Sincerely.
Gordon Smith

Gordon Smith / Edward's Pipe & Tobacco, Tampa, FL. - Tampa, FL - Industry Friend - February 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM