

Handcrafted at
THE BALVENIE®
Distillery, Banffshire

The Balvenie Commission / Craft In Action / Daniel Marshall

Daniel Marshall, humidor and cigar creator

“As with any object of beauty, one immediately knows and feels the love and human life that has gone in to its creation”

As Daniel Marshall reclines with whisky and cigar in hand, from a distance it might be easy to mis-judge this bronzed Californian surfer as someone who likes to take it easy. But within moments of meeting him, you soon realize that this is a man with extraordinary drive and passion. His obsession stems not for the want of fame, money or celebrity, but for the continuation of quality craftsmanship and the aspect of human nature in creation.

Daniel Marshall is famous for his exclusive cigar humidors and exquisite and delicious cigars. His many clients have included presidents, Hollywood stars and even the British royal family.

The cigar industry's most iconic figure, Marshall has been handcrafting luxury humidors and cigars for select international clientele from his workshop in Tustin, California since 1982. Cigar Aficionado Magazine have named Marshall their No. 1 rated humidor specialist. He has created thousands of extraordinary humidors throughout his illustrious 32-year career, using materials including solid gold, exotic wood and even alligator skin in their creations.



Commitment to craftsmanship

Marshall is committed to creating beautiful luxury items entirely by hand. This trade was made possible by a generous cash injection from a grandfather of an ex-girlfriend, who was fascinated by this young artisan's original dream of building his own sailing boat. To thank him for his generosity and faith, the 19-

Handcrafted at
THE BALVENIE®
Distillery, Banffshire

year-old Marshall built 'Papa Joe' a unique three-cigar hinged case made from teak. Papa Joe was seriously impressed with his handmade gift, encouraging Marshall to take it to Dunhill of London in Beverley Hills, the older man's favourite shop. Humidor in hand, Marshall met with Dunhill and quickly became the official architect of Dunhill humidors, and his lifelong career took off.

Each one of his luxury humidors takes almost four months to create and Marshall continues to take great pride in the painstaking process that is required for each. Marshall rejects using any machinery or technology to speed up production, and reduce costs, "There are fancy computer controlled routers and tooling that would remove many of our artist's work, yes of course, but we choose to continue in the same way as we have for 32 years. A machine made product has no soul. Hand made quality cannot be replaced by machines."

Despite having a team of exceptional artists working with him, each with up to 25 years of experience, Marshall still remains a fundamental part of the creation and design of the humidors in the Daniel Marshall collection. He personally creates the first artist proof of each and every humidor and helps in the selection process of the most exotic and rarest woods for the boxes.



"Human intent, care, love and life are breathed in to every one of our humidors. It's not only visible, but a vibration that can be felt. As with any object of beauty, one immediately knows and feels the love and human life that has gone in to its creation," explains Marshall, when asked what makes a handmade bespoke humidor so special. "When we create as artists, that energy we expend to create the best of the best and to use the finest of the finest materials on earth, that energy is tangible and evident in each of our creations."

Wood and whisky

It is working with wood where Marshall's true passion lies. His enjoyment comes from taking a creation from his mind and using a natural material to realise it. He appreciates how wood smells of its past – the age of the tree and the soil in which it grew. "I get quiet, peaceful and thoughtful, time slows down the minute I take up the chisel and work to create in three dimensional form what is in my

Handcrafted at
THE BALVENIE®
Distillery, Banffshire

minds eye. This is what inspires me daily and give me great pleasure.”

When The Balvenie Scotch whisky approached Marshall to create a humidor from the old oak staves from casks that have matured The Balvenie Portwood 21 Year Old single malt, he was immediately inspired.

“Whisky and cigars are the ideal digestif pairing for a discerning gentleman, so it makes sense to combine the two for such a fine object. The Balvenie Portwood casks have a real character to them, which is not just evident in the flavour carried in the whisky, but the grain and appearance of the wood itself. You can see where the iron rings holding the casks together have left their mark on the humidor’s staves. It is a truly great material to work with.”



Marshall made the trip across the Atlantic to visit The Balvenie Distillery in Dufftown, Scotland in order to inspire his creation. He paid a visit to fellow craftsmen who work at the distillery, including the coopers in The Balvenie’s on-site cooperage. It was here he watched the coopers handcraft the casks with wood in which the whisky would eventually rest. He also visited the warehouses where the whisky is aged in the casks, taking in the unique and rich aromas of the evaporating spirit.

The combination of the craftwork with the wood in the cooperage and the delicious aromas of the warehouse gave Marshall the inspiration he needed to create his unique and beautiful creation – **The 1962 Balvenie Whisky Stave Humidor**.



Handcrafted at
THE BALVENIE®
Distillery, Banffshire

The original whisky staves in which The Balvenie Portwood 21 Year Old matured are carefully fitted to the exterior of this unique humidor and the interior of the humidor is the actual interior wood from the same whisky cask, giving the humidor a uniquely delicate and earthy scent. "The aroma that this process creates is sublime," says Marshall. "When you open the humidor you immediately are transported to the maturation warehouses at The Balvenie Distillery in Scotland where some barrels of whisky have been aging for over 50 years."

Twenty-five of these beautiful Balvenie humidors have been made by Marshall and his team. Each humidor has been given a precise finish, rich in colour and texture. Small details such as the 24 carat gold fastenings add an extra finesse to the box, which holds 125 cigars. Perfect humidity is maintained inside the humidors, replicating the climate of the great regions that grow tobacco - allowing perfect aging for the finest of cigars.

Info about where the humidors are to be confirmed here by Global team/market teams

The hands of time

Marshall strongly believes that the hands of time cannot be rushed in order to achieve what is defined as the best. Poor quality craftsmanship is usually the result of a rushed job and evident to all.

When asked what craftsmanship means to him, Daniel Marshall replies: "Craftsmanship means to me an infusion of the human spirit into the object created. The traditional handmade technique and culture of quality craftsmanship must be preserved, celebrated and appreciated, if it is not, we will lose a very important part of what makes us human."



To find out more about Daniel Marshall:

www.danielmarshall.com

www.thegoldencigar.com

Handcrafted at
THE BALVENIE®
Distillery, Banffshire

The 1962 Balvenie Whisky Stave Humidors are available to purchase at \$3995
via phone or email – **1(800) 923-2889 / info@danielmarshall.com**