SMOKING DRAMATURGY FRAMEWORK

A Structured Language for How a Cigar Evolves

Public White Paper · Equal-Thirds Edition · Version 1.2

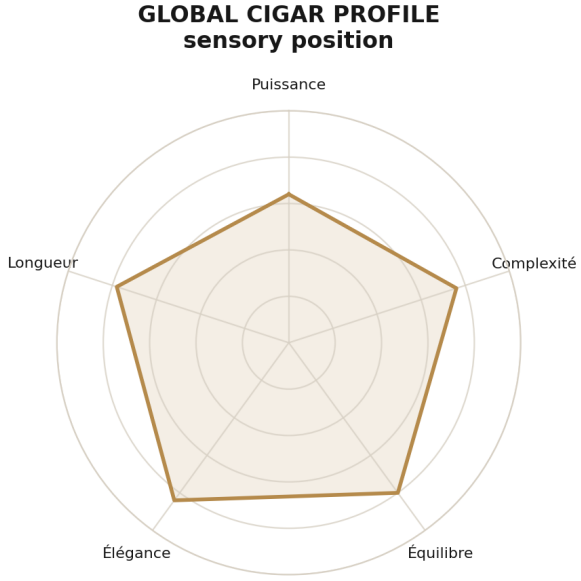
Based on Canonical Scenario Shape Matrix v1.1 — Equal-Thirds Control Grid · Revision 04.09.2026

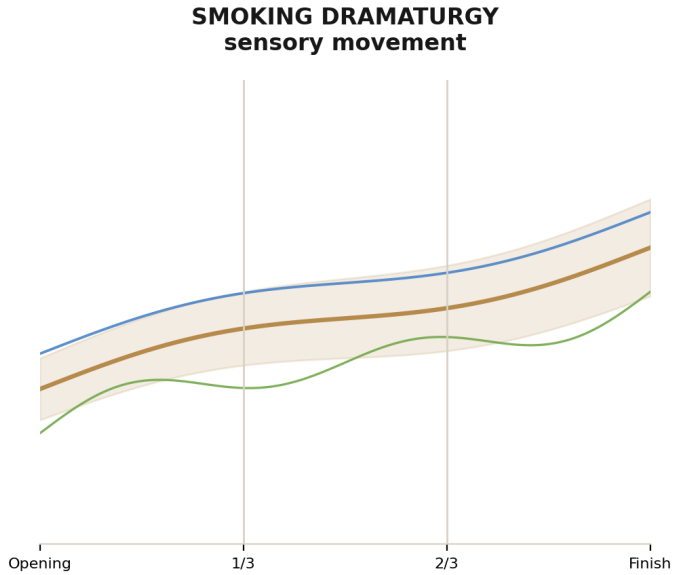
CORE PRINCIPLE
Global Profile = sensory position.
Dramaturgy = sensory movement.
Scenario = characteristic shape of that movement.

CustomVitola · Geneva · 2026

1. Why Smoking Dramaturgy?

A cigar has two complementary levels of description. The Global Cigar Profile describes what the cigar is like overall. Smoking Dramaturgy describes how the sensory experience moves from the opening to the finish. The seven scenarios are therefore not seven quality levels, seven radar profiles or seven strength classes. They are seven characteristic types of sensory evolution.





Radar determines level. Scenario determines shape.
Source tasting data determines how strongly the scenario shape may be applied to a specific cigar.

A global score such as Puissance 3.8 is an overall sensory anchor, not a requirement that every stage of the smoke equal 3.8. A trajectory can move above and below that level while remaining consistent with the cigar's overall profile.

2. Global Profile and the 7D Dynamic Model

The existing Global Cigar Profile remains unchanged.

Global profile dimension	Role
Puissance	Overall strength / impact
Complexité	Overall complexity
Équilibre	Overall balance
Élégance	Global meta-quality of refinement and integration
Longueur en bouche	Overall aftertaste / persistence
Overall	Displayed separately as a global quality assessment

Seven dynamic dimensions

ID	Dynamic parameter	Meaning
P	Puissance	Physical strength / impact
A	Aromatic Intensity	How strongly and vividly aromas are perceived
R	Aromatic Richness	Breadth and abundance of aromatic material
C	Complexity	Layering, interaction, transitions and structural sophistication
D	Body / Concentration	Density, fullness and concentration in the mouth
L	Persistence	How long the sensory impression remains
B	Balance	How harmonious and integrated the state is

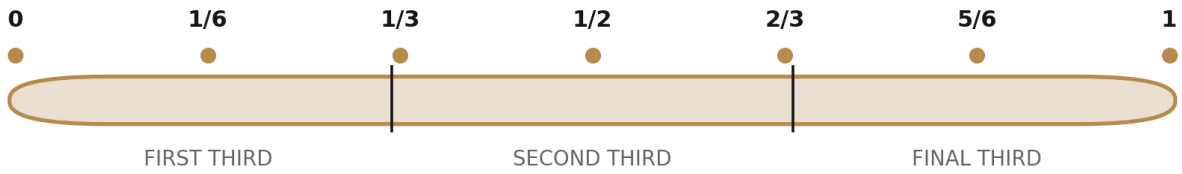
Four dynamic dimensions are anchored directly to the radar: P to Puissance, C to Complexité, B to Équilibre, and L to Longueur en bouche. Aromatic Intensity and Aromatic Richness add temporal information not represented on the radar. Body / Concentration is treated as a derived dynamic dimension.

Important distinction

Élégance does not become an eighth curve. It remains a global meta-assessment. Overall also remains global and never enters the trajectory.

3. Equal Thirds: One Common Time Grid

Version 1.1 aligns the mathematical model with the physical thirds of the cigar. Instead of five equal 20% intervals, the framework now uses six equal 1/6 intervals and seven shared control points.



Seven shared control points; each physical third contains two equal 1/6 engine intervals.

Point	Position	Interpretation
1	0	Opening / start of first third
2	1/6	Mid first third / Development 1
3	1/3	First-third boundary / Transition 1
4	1/2	Mid second third / Development 2
5	2/3	Second-third boundary / Transition 2
6	5/6	Mid final third / Final development
7	1	Finish

Each physical third therefore contains two equal engine intervals: [0, 1/6, 1/3], [1/3, 1/2, 2/3] and [2/3, 5/6, 1]. The client interface can still show only Opening, 1/3, 2/3 and Finish, while the engine retains the three internal mid-third points.

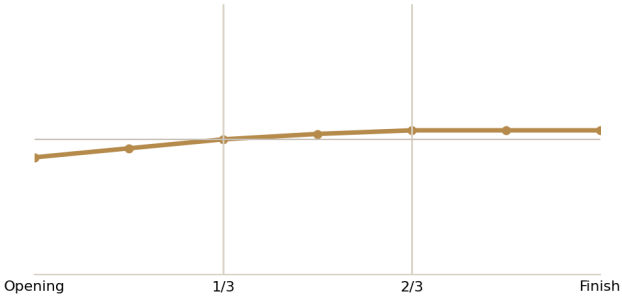
Why this matters

All seven scenarios share exactly the same X-scale. Their differences therefore come from sensory geometry, not from different chart scales or unequal thirds.

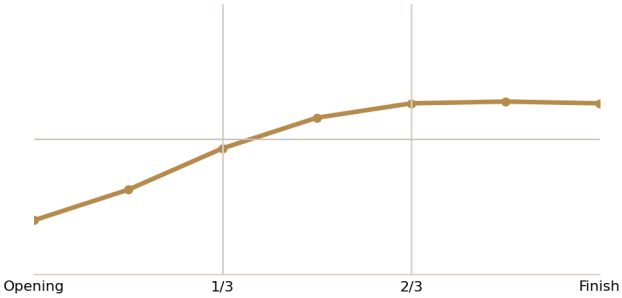
4. Seven Characteristic Evolution Scenarios

The scenario is defined primarily by the geometry of evolution, not by an absolute sensory score. The curves below are qualitative signatures: they communicate the characteristic form without reproducing the proprietary normalized offset matrix.

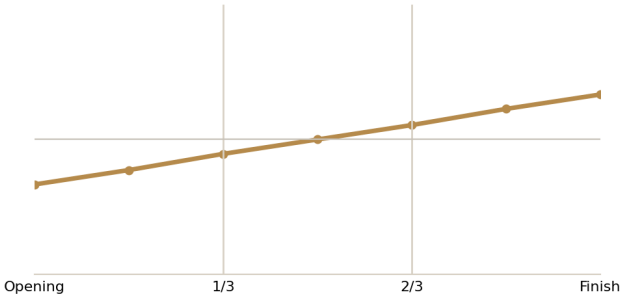
Discreet Elegance



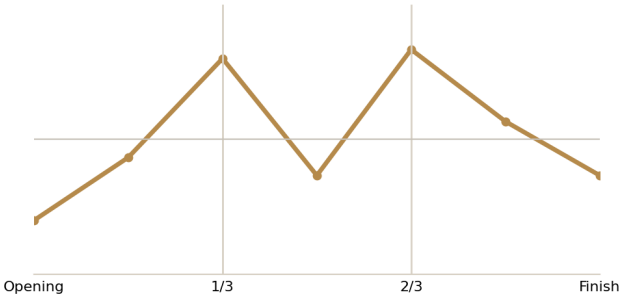
Premium Hospitality



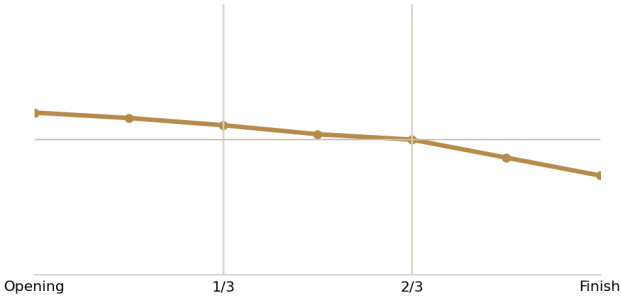
Progressive Prestige



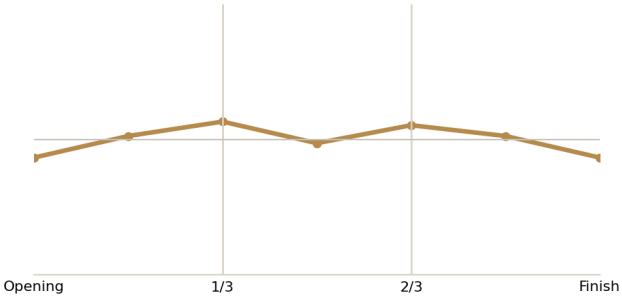
Constructed Craftsmanship



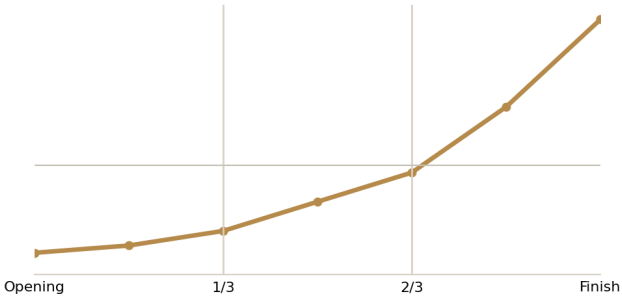
Dense Presence



Delicate Refinement



Assertive Crescendo



5. What Makes the Seven Scenarios Distinct?

Scenario	Primary discriminator
Discreet Elegance	Lowest dynamic variance
Premium Hospitality	Strongest rise-to-plateau behaviour
Progressive Prestige	Richness / persistence growth stronger than strength growth
Constructed Craftsmanship	Highest controlled direction-change count
Dense Presence	Highest opening-state index
Delicate Refinement	Low amplitude with meaningful micro-variation
Assertive Crescendo	Highest positive late acceleration

This separation rule is central: after normalization, no two scenario templates should share the same primary mathematical signature. This prevents the system from collapsing into seven visually similar versions of a gently rising curve.

The conceptual reading

Discreet Elegance — Very little movement. The signature is low dynamic variance, restrained transitions and a composed finish.

Premium Hospitality — Positive development through the first two thirds, then a final-third plateau rather than a further surge.

Progressive Prestige — Richness and persistence expand more strongly than Puissance. The trajectory remains smooth and predominantly monotonic.

Constructed Craftsmanship — A staged, intentionally non-monotonic sequence with controlled changes of direction and recognisable transitions.

Dense Presence — A high starting state rather than a large slope. Presence and body are established early and then remain broadly sustained.

Delicate Refinement — Low amplitude does not mean no movement: small but meaningful variations create finesse and nuance.

Assertive Crescendo — The strongest development is reserved for the final third; the scenario is defined by positive late acceleration.

6. Scientific Foundations & Research Context

The CustomVitola Smoking Dramaturgy Framework is best described at this stage as a science-informed proprietary sensory framework rather than as an externally validated scientific standard.

Established scientific foundations

Sensory profiling is an established scientific discipline. ISO 13299:2016 provides general guidance for establishing sensory profiles and explicitly lists tobacco products among the products to which sensory profiling may be applied [1]. ISO 8586:2023 provides criteria for the selection and training of trained and expert sensory assessors [2].

Temporal sensory analysis is also a mature research field. A 2024 systematic scoping review examined 363 studies using multi-attribute temporal descriptive methods and documented a broad family of approaches for following sensory perception as it changes over time [3]. Temporal Dominance of Sensations (TDS) and Temporal Check-All-That-Apply (TCATA) are established examples of this approach [4,5].

TCATA is particularly relevant conceptually because multivariate analysis can be used to visualize product trajectories over time in a sensory space [5]. Attack-Evolution-Finish research also shows that a tasting experience can be described through successive temporal phases while retaining useful product discrimination [6].

Relevance to cigar research

Peer-reviewed cigar research supports the broader premise that cigars can be characterized through structured sensory evaluation and multivariate analysis. In 2024, studies combined sensory evaluation with GC-MS, HS-GC-IMS, electronic-nose measurements and chemometric methods to differentiate cigar aroma profiles and relate sensory differences to volatile composition [7,8].

These studies do not validate the CustomVitola seven-scenario taxonomy. They do, however, support the scientific legitimacy of multidimensional cigar sensory profiling and of relating sensory differences to structured analytical data.

A deliberate methodological boundary

Temporal methods do not automatically provide more useful information than static profiling in every product category. Comparative research has found that static and dynamic approaches can produce similar overall discrimination, while dynamic methods add the most value when attributes show meaningful time-dependency [9]. A long-duration product such as a cigar is therefore a plausible candidate for temporal modeling, but the added discriminatory value of this framework must be demonstrated empirically.

7. Scientific Position, Validation Status & References

What is scientifically supported

- Multidimensional sensory profiling is an established methodology.
- Sensory perception can be studied dynamically rather than only as a static end-state.
- Multi-attribute temporal data can be represented as trajectories in sensory space.
- Trained and expert sensory assessors can be selected and trained using established sensory-analysis practice.
- Cigar sensory profiles can be differentiated using structured sensory evaluation and multivariate instrumental analysis.

What remains a CustomVitola research proposition

The exact seven-scenario taxonomy, the choice and operational independence of the seven dynamic dimensions, the canonical signature shapes, scenario boundaries and the assignment of individual cigars to a scenario are proprietary methodological propositions. They have not yet been externally validated as natural or universal categories of cigar perception.

The CustomVitola seven-scenario taxonomy is a proposed proprietary framework derived from expert cigar tasting data and informed by established temporal sensory-analysis principles. Formal external validation of the taxonomy is a future research objective.

Future validation objective

A formal validation study would ideally use blind repeated tastings by multiple trained or expert assessors, predefined sensory descriptors, repeatability and inter-rater agreement analysis, and multivariate or clustering methods to test whether the proposed scenario structure is reproducible and whether seven distinct trajectory families are supported by the data.

Selected scientific references

[1] ISO 13299:2016. Sensory analysis - Methodology - General guidance for establishing a sensory profile.

[2] ISO 8586:2023. Sensory analysis - Selection and training of sensory assessors.

[3] Visalli M et al. (2024). Multi-attribute temporal descriptive methods in sensory analysis applied in food science: A systematic scoping review. Compr Rev Food Sci Food Saf, 23(1), e13294. DOI 10.1111/1541-4337.13294.

[4] Pineau N et al. (2009). Temporal Dominance of Sensations: Construction of the TDS curves and comparison with time-intensity. Food Qual Prefer, 20(6), 450-455. DOI 10.1016/j.foodqual.2009.04.005.

[5] Castura JC, Antúnez L, Giménez A, Ares G. (2016). Temporal Check-All-That-Apply (TCATA): A novel dynamic method for characterizing products. Food Qual Prefer, 47A, 79-90. DOI 10.1016/j.foodqual.2015.06.017.

[6] Visalli M et al. (2020). Attack-evolution-finish as a simplification of Temporal Dominance of Sensations? Food Qual Prefer, 85, 103956. DOI 10.1016/j.foodqual.2020.103956.

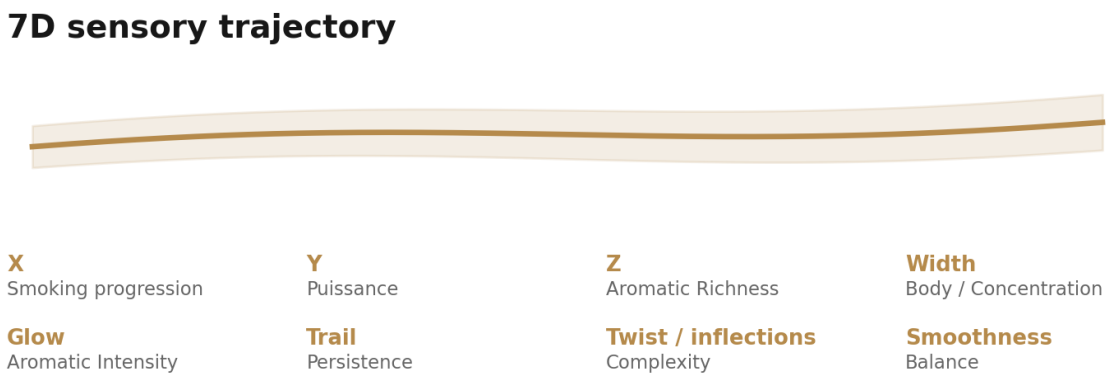
[7] Yang L et al. (2024). Analysis of differences in aroma and sensory characteristics of the mainstream smoke of six cigars. Heliyon, 10(4), e26630. DOI 10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e26630.

[8] Zhou Q et al. (2024). Discriminative analysis of aroma profiles in diverse cigar products varieties through integrated sensory evaluation, GC-IMS and E-nose. J Chromatogr A, 1733, 465241. DOI 10.1016/j.chroma.2024.465241.

[9] Vidal L et al. (2019). Sensory product characterisations based on check-all-that-apply questions: Further insights on static CATA and dynamic TCATA. Food Res Int, 125, 108510. DOI 10.1016/j.foodres.2019.108510.

8. From Seven Dimensions to One Client-Facing Trajectory

The framework uses one consistent visual grammar for all scenarios. The same axes, color logic and trajectory semantics are retained; only the data geometry changes.



Visual property	Encoded parameter
X	Smoking progression
Y	Puissance
Z	Aromatic Richness
Ribbon width	Body / Concentration
Glow intensity	Aromatic Intensity
Trail persistence	Persistence
Twists / inflections	Complexity
Curve tension / smoothness	Balance

The central trajectory is therefore not intended as a decorative 3D object. It is a compact client-facing encoding of the seven-dimensional dynamic model.

Profile and trajectory answer different questions

The radar says where the cigar sits overall. The trajectory shows how the sensory state moves during the smoke.

9. Classification, Evidence and Confidence

Scenario classification should not depend on one curve or on a single radar value. The engine derives a compact feature set from the observed or reconstructed trajectories.

Feature family	Examples
Levels	start level, end level, opening-state index
Change	net change, dynamic range, mean / early / late slope
Third-based evolution	delta over first, second and final thirds
Geometry	acceleration, plateau index, direction-change count, inflection count
Relative development	richness-to-strength growth relationship
Fine structure	micro-variation index

Because the seven-point grid contains exact third boundaries, the classifier can compare the first, second and final thirds directly. This is especially useful for separating Premium Hospitality from Assertive Crescendo: the former develops and then plateaus, while the latter reserves the strongest acceleration for the final third.

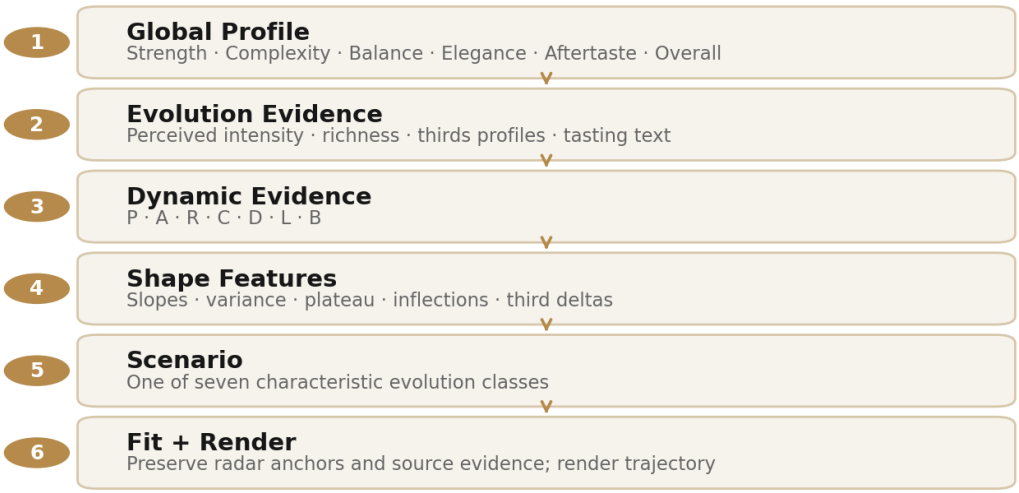
Source evidence

Dimension	Primary evidence
P / C / L / B	Global radar anchor + thirds tasting text + opening / middle / final profiles + explicit evolution statements
A	perceived_intensity + tasting by thirds + descriptions of aromatic intensity
R	aromatic_richness + breadth of aroma families + thirds tasting notes
D	density / body / concentration / fullness / smoke-body descriptions

No invented precision

When source data is limited, the scenario template may act as a prior, but confidence must be reduced. The framework should never fabricate false tasting precision.

10. Classification and Rendering Are Different Operations



The classifier answers: Which canonical evolution class best describes this cigar? The trajectory fitter answers: How does this specific cigar express that class? Two cigars can therefore share the same scenario while having very different absolute profiles.

A scenario is not a quality judgment

Delicate Refinement is not inferior to Dense Presence. Discreet Elegance is not less sophisticated because it moves less. Assertive Crescendo is not better because its finale is stronger. Quality remains represented by the Global Profile, Élégance, Balance, Overall and expert assessment.

Recommended stored structure

Layer	Recommended content
global_profile	strength · complexity · balance · elegance · aftertaste · overall
dramaturgy_profile	scenario_id · scenario_confidence · source_confidence · shape_template_version · P[7] · A[7] · R[7] · C[7] · D[7] · L[7] · B[7]

11. Implementation Principles and Framework Status

Canonical acceptance principles

- All seven scenarios use the same scale and the same seven control points.
- Scenario fitting must preserve the global P / C / L / B anchors rather than overwrite them arbitrarily.
- No two scenario templates may share the same primary discriminator.
- Source tasting evidence takes precedence over scenario priors.
- Low source evidence lowers source confidence.
- Élégance remains global; there is no E(x) trajectory.
- Overall remains global; there is no Overall trajectory.
- Dense Presence requires genuine initial presence/body, not merely a flat curve.
- Delicate Refinement requires actual restrained P/D and finesse, not merely low variance.

Framework status

The seven-scenario system is a proposed operational taxonomy for describing movement through cigar sensory space. Its scenario names can remain stable while the numerical prototype shapes and calibration rules evolve through versioning and validation against additional tasting evidence.

Public white paper scope

This document presents the conceptual architecture, seven scenarios, equal-thirds control grid and visual grammar. It intentionally does not reproduce the exact normalized offset matrix, engineering calibration thresholds or internal classifier weights.

Final architecture

GLOBAL SENSORY POSITION + SOURCE EVIDENCE + CANONICAL EVOLUTION SHAPE

= SMOKING DRAMATURGY