

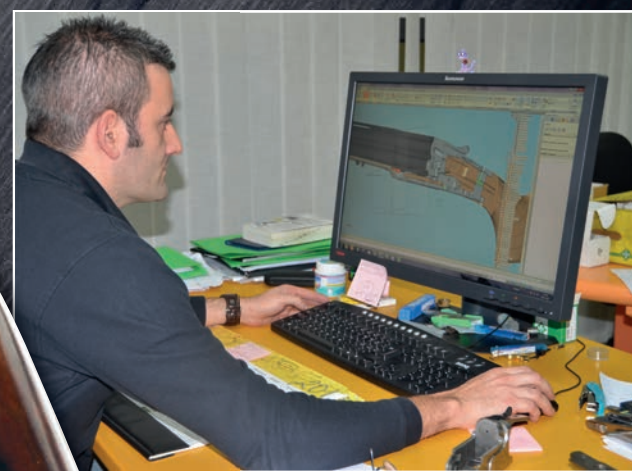
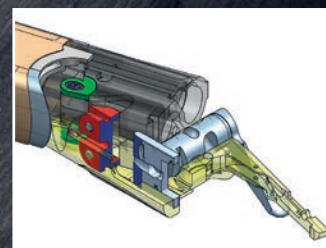
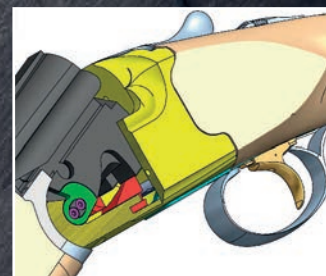
INTRODUCING THE INVICTUS

THE LATEST MODEL FROM CAESAR GUERINI
IS REVIEWED BY DON BRUNT

The Caesar Guerini brand has enjoyed something of a meteoric rise in the premium shotgun market in recent years, due in part to a raft of new competition guns and model upgrades launched each season. No surprise then that at this year's SHOT Show, Giorgio and Antonio Guerini, together with Wes Lang of Caesar Guerini USA, took the opportunity to introduce the Invictus (Latin for Invincible).



GIORGIO AND ANTONIO GUERINI.



The Italian patent pending design of the Invictus provides a solution to the wear on the hinge pins, trunnions and locking bar that results in a 'loose' (off the face) lockup after many thousands of rounds. Most modern guns have been built to allow this issue to be overcome by a trip to the gunsmith who can replace trunnions, fit larger hinge pins and a few other tricks of the trade that can temporarily arrest the issue. However, such remedial action can be expensive.

What's needed is a way to solve this issue quickly, cheaply and with a minimum of fuss and that's just what the design team based in Italy have come up with. The Invictus action includes what Wes Lang describes as 'reverse trunnions' which are detachable from the monobloc with the use of hex bolts. These are the point of contact and wear when opening the gun and absorb much of the stress generated through recoil. The idea is that if and when the gun starts to loosen, then these can be simply replaced by slightly larger trunnions which compensate for the wear and actually push the barrels back onto the face of the action. However, the system relies on more than just one feature. These reverse trunnions work in parallel with a recoil lug that sits on the bottom of the barrels and locates into the action floor. This is also easily replaceable and shares the load of coping with the stresses of tens of thousands of rounds. So, instead of having to send your gun away to a gunsmith, the interchangeable parts of the Invictus can be replaced, at home, in about 15 minutes by the owner of the gun.

In conversation with Wes Lang he explained that the Invictus was Antonio's idea. "It's something that he had been thinking about for a

few years. When he explained the concept to me in detail, it was an educational experience. There are certain technical aspects of a double that I didn't realize had such specific effects on the longevity of a gun. My initial impression was that the Invictus is a game changer as regards durability and solves a problem that other manufacturers have not tackled. There's not been any design engineered in a way that will bring a shotgun back to factory specs after extended use. There are things that have been done such as lugs and forend adjusters, but nobody has ever addressed the action to barrel fit and how they mate and wear.

"If and when you wear the two reverse trunnions, you can replace them, which in conjunction with the recoil block, gets the gun back to factory specs. Recoil lugs aren't in themselves a new idea but the idea of making them easily replaceable is," says Wes Lang. The replaceable nature of these key components is a major contributing factor to the lifespan of the Invictus and its value proposition.

Not surprisingly, the Invictus as a new concept in competition guns benefits from more than just this technical leap forward. The trigger unit has been tweaked and modified to make it crisper and reduce any creep. The weight of the action improves balance while the 'shadow' line on the base of the action gives it a clean purposeful line while different action fences differentiate it from what's gone before.

Available initially in 30 and 32 inch barrelled versions, the gun carries over the recently redesigned 8-11mm rib that sports some rakishly designed posts that aesthetically give it stand out from much of the competition. The

Invictus also adopts the rounded forend that the marque has used in recent years and the pistol gripped stock has a straight comb rather than a Monte Carlo. Throw in well figured quality walnut of a grade similar to the very pleasing to the eye furniture that's fitted to the Challenger, a price tag of around \$6,500 and the Invictus is looking like a serious contender for your hard earned dollars as a competition gun.

Ladies Note

You wouldn't expect Caesar Guerini to launch just one gun at the SHOT Show, and they have stayed true to form by announcing plans for a new sub brand in the form of 'Syren' – aimed specifically at female shooters. It's the first serious production competition gun to meet their specific needs. It is though, as Wes Lang explains, still early days in its development and there's still work to be done before the full specs are finalized.

"We want to make sure that its 100% right. Once the gun has been unveiled we will get a few people to shoot it and see what they think and maybe tweak it a little more before we go to full production. Stock fit is the main area that we have worked on. There's no point in making something that's just a warmed over version of a guys gun. We've spoken to shooters, instructors and gun fitters and to that end we have appointed Anne Mauro, who is no mean shot herself, as Brand Manager.





ANNE MAURO, SYREN BRAND MANAGER.

“Initially the gun will sport a version of the Tempio engraving, but the intention is to get something done specifically designed to cater for the tastes of female shooters – both in terms of

design and engraving. No other manufacturer has gone as far as creating a sub brand just for women shooters and we want women to steer the brands direction and give them what they actually want –

that’s why its so important to have a woman leading the project.”

Initially ‘Syren’ will offer one grade of sporting clays gun in 12, 20 and 28 gauge with barrel lengths of 28, 30 and 32 inches. “We are also aiming in the future to offer a range of soft goods to complement the range and provide Ladies with a wider selection of suitable equipment than is currently out there in the market place,” concludes Wes Lang.

Guerini has in recent years been riding the crest of a wave in terms of volume sales and acceptance by shooters around the world. It has proven itself to be a driving force in terms of development of new ideas and the launch of the Invictus and current plans for the Syren are sure to further cement its position in the marketplace. ■



TANYA FAULDS HAS BEEN TESTING A DEVELOPMENT PROTOTYPE OF THE SYREN.