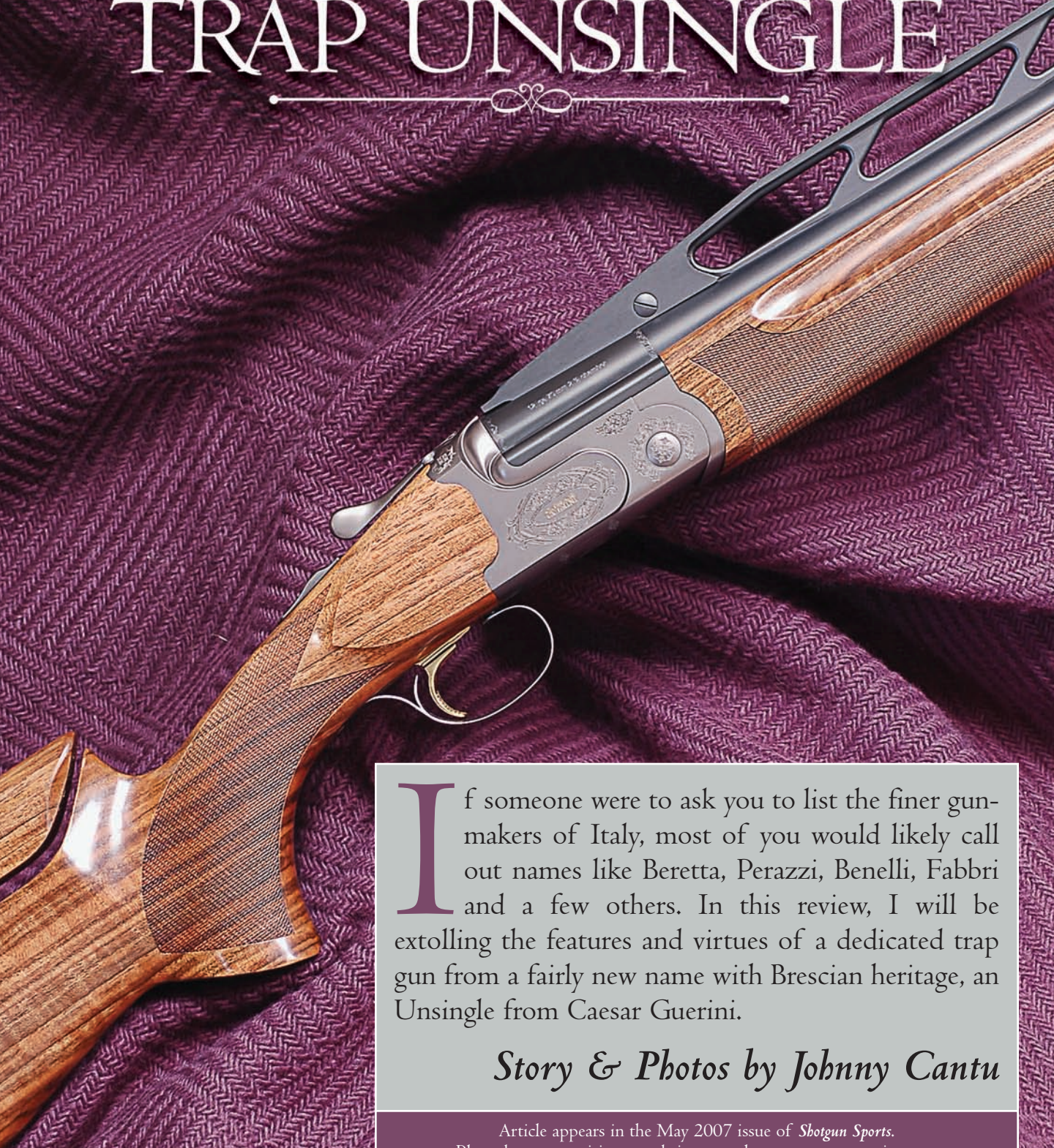


CÆSAR GUERINI'S **NEW** SUMMIT TRAP UNSINGLE

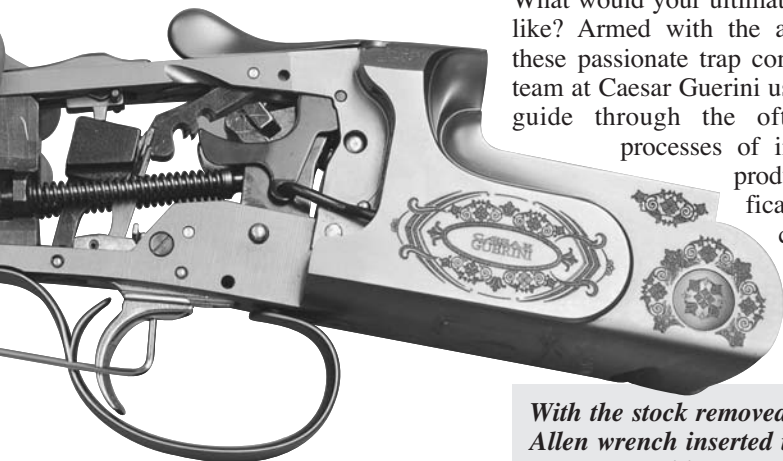


If someone were to ask you to list the finer gun-makers of Italy, most of you would likely call out names like Beretta, Perazzi, Benelli, Fabbri and a few others. In this review, I will be extolling the features and virtues of a dedicated trap gun from a fairly new name with Brescian heritage, an Unsingle from Caesar Guerini.

Story & Photos by Johnny Cantu

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Please be sure to visit our website www.shotgunsportsmagazine.com

Located in the Val Trompia region of Italy in the town of Marcheno, Caesar Guerini has been producing quality shotguns for discerning sportsmen since 2003. Georgio Guerini, Antonio Guerini and Wes Lang have focused on providing the American market with excellent products made of the finest materials, sculpted with old world craftsmanship and blended with modern technological expertise.



I had the distinct pleasure of spending some time with Georgio and Wes at the 2005 Grand American. Georgio is a brilliant young man who fully understands the challenges facing newcomers in the Italian gunmaking business. He exemplifies the strong will, determination and artistry we have come to expect from the best of the Italian firearms manufacturers. Wes, who heads up Caesar Guerini USA, and I have been friends for years since we were coworkers at Beretta USA in southern Maryland. Wes spent years covering the country as a high-level competitive shooter and understands the wants and needs of American shotguns. He has lent considerable insight to the design of the Caesar Guerini guns for the American market, and his input has been invaluable for the success of this fine line of shotguns. The Guerini Field and Sporter shotguns have enjoyed excellent acceptance in the last few years and Wes has been a large part of that (see our review in the June 2005 issue).

Now, from this combination of Italian artistry and American insight comes a dedicated shotgun for the American trapshooter. The Summit Trap Unsingl and its upscale siblings, the Maxum and Magnus Trap, are the culmination of more than three years of collective work to create a line

SUMMIT TRAP UNSINGL

designed to allow trapshooters to not just excel but win. Many conversations with American trapshooters of all skill levels took place over the years, and their responses were earnestly heard and noted. A basic question asked was: What would your ultimate trap gun be like? Armed with the answers from these passionate trap competitors, the team at Caesar Guerini used them as a guide through the often rigorous processes of initial design, production, modification and final changes that eventually would end with a state-of-the-art

worth mentioning here. The particular Summit Trap prototype I received sported a unique adjustable rib as well as an adjustable comb. The Unsingl version will be made available to the American market as a combo. The over & under barrel will also sport an adjustable rib, although not as pronounced as the design on the Unsingl. The Summit prototype also came to me with a 34" barrel with screw-in chokes. All the better, as that is my favorite length for a single-barrel trap gun. The chokes provided were mostly just quick setups to have something to shoot; however, the Extra-Full was of a Guerini design called the "Maxis Competition Choke." These specially designed chokes go hand-in-hand with the Maxis barrel. More on these a little later in my review.

The Summit came with a hand-rubbed oil finish on the walnut buttstock and forearm that resulted in a medium sheen.

With the stock removed, the firing mechanism is now visible with the 1.5mm Allen wrench inserted into the set screw of the trigger shoe. Here it is at the rearmost position to accommodate my hand and trigger finger. Also visible are the hammer-spring assemblies, sears, hammers, inertia block and overtravel adjustment screw. The graceful and artistic scalloped fences are testaments to Guerini's attention to aesthetic detail.

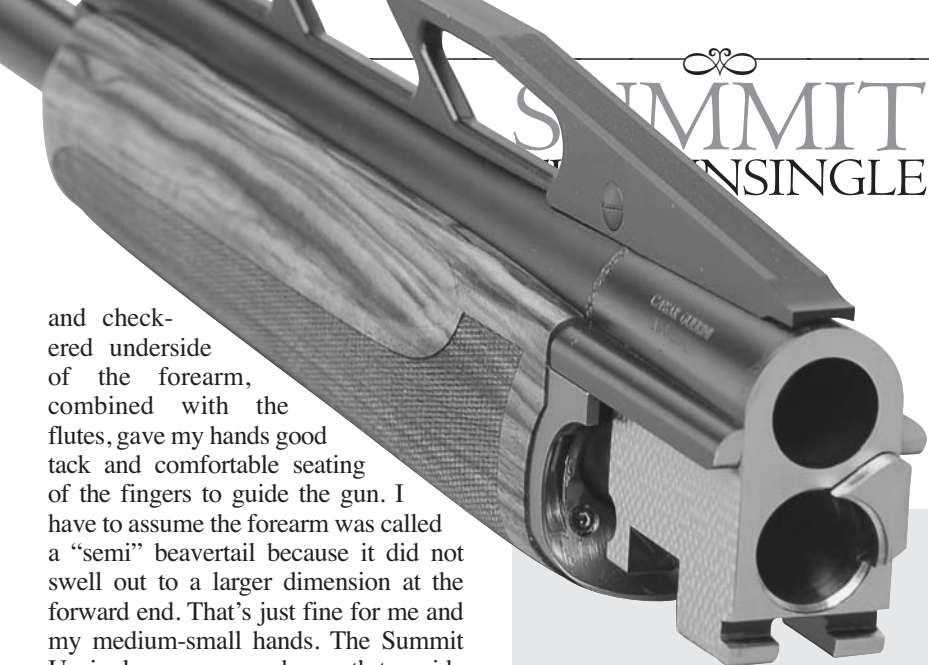
trap-gun series.

When I first spoke to Wes about testing and reviewing the Summit Trap Unsingl, he fairly warned me the gun I would receive as a test model would be a prototype and some minor changes would occur between it and the final production models. With that in mind, I fully expected a few interesting points to come up with the test version. There were few, most not

at all unattractive. The stock on my test version was well streaked with nice, dark color and grain that could be seen even through the checkering. The checkering was hand-cut at 26 lines per inch in a simple but appealing style. The semi-beavertail forearm came with finger flutes, a concept I personally prefer. This style of forearm is sometimes called a trap/skeet forearm. The fully rounded



The Summit Unsingl Trap prototype as I received it. Notice the adjustable rib. I was sure the polished and rounded posts were made of polymer. I was wrong. Three Allen-style wrenches are supplied for stock removal, comb adjustment, trigger-shoe adjustment and take-up.



SUMMIT UN SINGLE

and checked underside of the forearm, combined with the flutes, gave my hands good tack and comfortable seating of the fingers to guide the gun. I have to assume the forearm was called a “semi” beavertail because it did not swell out to a larger dimension at the forward end. That’s just fine for me and my medium-small hands. The Summit Unsingle was easy and smooth to guide with my front hand.

The forearm was attached to the Unsingle barrel by means of a modified Anson pushrod latch system. The tip of the pushrod protruded approximately 7mm out the front of the gun. Versions of this system have been used on different makes of shotguns for many years. Guerini’s version of this reliable and attractive system incorporates a replaceable bushing that allows tightening of the forearm iron to the receiver should it ever be needed. This is just one of the subtle features that make the Guerini the kind of trap gun shooters have been wanting to see.

The beautiful Guerini receiver, with its gracefully scalloped fences, was of the popular “Boss” style. Many other models of shotguns have copied this styling of the fences and shoulders, and it’s easy to understand why. Caesar Guerini made the most of their innate styling skills and created a singularly beautiful over & under receiver. I can only imagine machining a receiver with scalloped fences has to be more expensive than not having them scalloped. To me, this speaks highly of the complete quality and aesthetics Caesar Guerini demands of their products.

The finish on my Summit receiver might be called “French grey.” Wes provided me with the details of the Summit’s finish, which is produced by layering two different finishes onto the metal. First, a layer of Teflon-impregnated nickel is layered onto the receiver and, afterwards, a layer of a specially developed proprietary coating called Tinaloy™ is applied. The finish, combined with the very attractive laser and

The breech of the prototype Guerini Summit Unsingle. The unique rib is seen from the rear with its tall rear step and graceful posts. The full-width underlug of the monobloc is also visible and the false upper chamber. The top chamber will, in the production versions, house a snap-cap/firing-pin cushioning device, as well as the anti-vibration system. The midsection of the rib along the top-chamber barrel extension houses still another device to lessen rib noise and vibration.

die-stamped engraving, gave the receiver an overall appeal not likely to be outdone by many other firearms in the same class. The Summit is certainly a gun you will be proud to uncase at the gun club!

Within the Summit’s receiver was, of course, the firing mechanism. Guerini designed the Summit with a nonselective, inertia-operated trigger with a manually operated safety. Rebounding hammers equipped with secondary safety drop notches provided forward inertia to the firing pins. The firing pins rebound away from the face of the receiver after firing. Powerful coil springs were wrapped onto hammer spring assemblies set into sockets at the rear tang. These assemblies drove the hammers forward with more than enough force to make even the toughest primers do their thing. Almost all my over & unders have this type of hammer powering system and, after many thousands of rounds, I can barely recall the last time

I had any trouble with them. It’s a simple and highly durable design.

This next information should make a lot of trapshooters happy. Wes informed me the Guerini Trap Guns will be offered, in the not-too-distant future, with factory release triggers. The advantage to having release triggers installed by the factory is the parts can be designed to give the best performance and durability by being correctly engineered and hardened for the gun. This eliminates the problems that can be encountered when aftermarket trigger systems are installed. Additionally, with factory installed triggers, your warranty is maintained. Wes told me release/pull and double-release triggers would eventually be part of the options offered. He also let me know, should a customer desire a selective trigger mechanism, that request could be easily accommodated.

The trigger of my Summit Trap was adjustable for overtravel as well as take-up. Overtravel was adjusted by means of a flat, slotted screw head fitted flush alongside the right edge of the lower tang of the receiver (you have to remove the stock to access it). Take-up was adjusted with the supplied 1.5mm Allen wrench. The adjustment set screw for take-up was located just behind the gold-plated trigger along the right side.

The trigger shoe was also adjustable for length of draw (or “length of reach,” as Guerini calls it). The adjustment range of the trigger shoe from fully forward to the rearmost position is a full ½”, plenty of movement for even the largest-handed shooter. It can be set at any point along that range, not just at pre-cut notches, as with some other adjustable trigger shoes. Width of the serrated trigger shoe was 7.95mm. Guerini’s listed length of draw is 4.1”, measured at the center of the overall range.

Although I never tried to adjust the trigger for overtravel or take-up, I did adjust the position of the shoe to better fit my trigger finger. The Summit’s trigger broke cleanly and consistently at 3.25 pounds throughout all my test firings and never showed signs of fading or hardening. The Guerini trigger system is well-designed and should easily hold up to long tournament seasons and shoot-off punishment.

The stock of the Summit Trap was very attractive and, of course, carried within it the adjustable hardware. This was a prototypical area. I was assured

SUMMIT TRAP UNSINGLE

Also slated for the future is the option of a weight/recoil-reduction/balancing system that would reside in the buttstock. Wes explained, "The plans for this system would eventually give the shooter a quick interchangeable system of three different weights, allowing the shooter to not only add weight in the stock but balance adjustability, as well as a recoil reduction." According

The fluted, semi-beavertail forearm of the Guerini Summit. The modified Anson pushrod latching system incorporates a replaceable bushing (seen just to the rear of the barrel-lug recess) that can tighten the relationship of the forearm iron and barrel to the receiver.

by Wes the adjustable combs on the production models would be as easily adjusted for cast, comb height, drop and comb offset. This was another area I did not adjust. I left the comb at the fully lowered position. Adjustments to the comb (.75" from highest to lowest) could be made with the supplied 3mm Allen wrench.

The comb had within it hardware that adjusted for the shooter's personal preferences. The settings could be retained by means of set screws that automatically recall your personal setting each time you remove the comb for an adjustment. I simply loosened the set screws that held the comb onto the stock, removed the comb and adjusted as needed. Then I adjusted the memory set screw on the underside of the comb for the same setting. No more worrying about having the right-thickness washers or losing shims like with other systems! This system was very simple — one of those "Why doesn't everybody do it like that?" kind of designs.

The rear of the stock was fitted with a soft, rubber, ventilated recoil pad. Quite soft and rounded on the edges, it did an excellent job of softening the recoil blows to my shoulder. Everyone who shot the prototype spoke highly of its pleasant recoil sensation. Wes let me know there may be (just maybe) the option of an adjustable butt plate in the future. He did not say it was a certainty but hinted it might happen. Stay tuned for further updates.

to Wes, the early production models would probably have an insertion hole pre-drilled into the body of the stock so the system, once available, could be retrofitted. This mechanism would most likely not be standard but offered as an option on the Summit, Maxum and Magnus Trap Guns.

Now would probably be as good a place as any to mention DTS. I'm sorry; I mean "Dynamic Tuning System." That's what Guerini calls the overall adaptability of their series of trap guns to the shooter's individual style and needs. The adjustable comb system is one of the components in the DTS. The adjustable rib on the Summit's Maxis barrel is the major component. With almost every other gun on the market, the shooter usually ends up making some compromise to his or her shooting style, which generally results in a negative effect on scores. The DTS is designed to allow the rib to be adjusted from a 60/40 point-of-impact (POI) to a whopping 120% high. This is all accomplished by the simple turning of an adjustment wheel at the front of the rib. Once the proper POI has been attained (adjustment reference notches are on the side of the muzzle post), you will simply lock the rib into position with the set screw housed in the front face of the rib post. Additionally, the midsection of the rib maintains a bushing designed to eliminate nuisances like vibration and noise.

The rib of my Summit was constructed of alloyed aluminum, very stylish and quite unique. Measuring

12mm at the rear step and 10.8mm at the muzzle, with full-length, glare-reducing grooves, most shooters who saw the Summit said things like "Whoa! What a rib!" or "Man, that's a rib!" The machining of the rib posts especially intrigued me. I was, at first, totally convinced the rib was comprised of two materials — polymer for the posts and aluminum for the top and bottom ribs. I assumed the posts had been dovetailed or glued to the top and bottom ribs, but when I questioned Wes about it, he assured me the rib was one-piece and machined entirely of aluminum. I had to see this for

myself. Not that I didn't believe Wes knew what he was talking about; curiosity just got the best of me. I removed the rib from the barrel and, sure enough, the rib was one-piece and all-aluminum. The posts were so well-rounded and polished, I just knew they were polymer. I was wrong. This rib is a thing of beauty! Beads on my rib were a Bradley-style front and 2mm brass midbead.

"Maxis" is the name of the collective bore size, forcing-cone length and choke system the Summit retains. The bore of the Summit barrel is listed at .735 (my test prototype measured just a hair under at .734). Visual inspection and measuring of the forcing cones confirmed the advertised length of 5". Long forcing cones are an aid in overall reduction of felt recoil. Guerini calls their forcing-cone design "DuoCon." The bore is chrome-lined for the utmost in corrosion resistance.

The surface of the Summit's barrel was finished with a most attractive, soft-matte, glare-reducing finish. A monobloc design, the receiver's upper false barrel housed yet another vibration-dampening system. Combined with the Summit's natural weight of almost 9 pounds, it was obvious Guerini wants it to be very user-friendly.

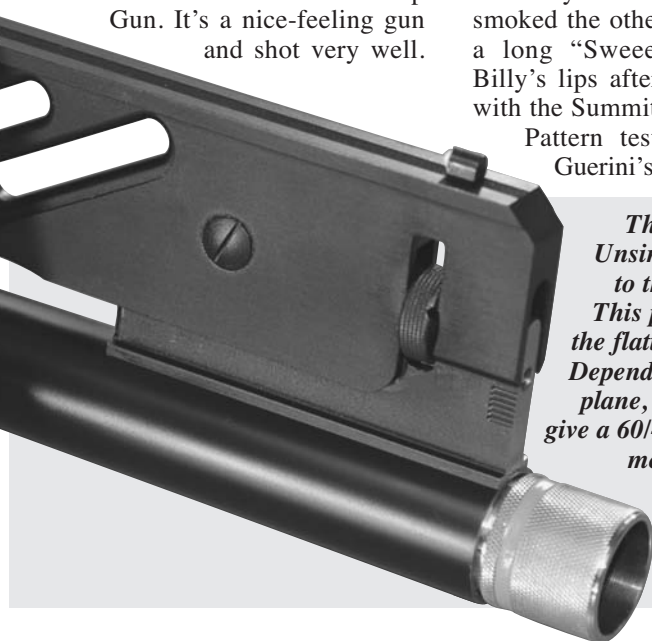
Although my prototype did not possess one, Wes informed me the top chambers of the production-version Unsingle guns will also have within them a firing-pin cushioning snap-cap system to prevent harm to the top firing pin. This would also allow relaxation of the top barrel-hammer spring when

preparing to store the gun. The barrel of the Summit, with its unique and very adjustable rib, should certainly help many shooters reach the next level in their game.

The Maxis Chokes that will come with the Guerini Trap Series are designed to work in harmony with the Maxis bore. The Extra-full Maxis supplied with my test gun measured 3.188" in overall length. The external knurled section measured .811" and was clearly marked "EF" on the knurled portion and "EXTRA FULL" in three places on its circumference. The sidewall of the choke was marked "MAXICHOKE CAESAR GUERINI EXTRA FULL" on three lines.

Range testing of the Summit at local clubs had many eyebrows rising in envy. The Summit's great looks had shooters nearby wanting to take a shot or two with it. I was more than happy to have others try a few shots in exchange for their comments afterward. No one had anything even close to a negative criticism. Most were just unhappy it was not yet available.

Chris Slane, father of Billy Slane, 13-year-old California PITA State Singles Champion, had this to say after shooting a round with the Summit Unsingle: "Thank you for the test round with the Guerini Trap Gun. It's a nice-feeling gun and shot very well.



SUMMIT TRAP UNSINGLE



The adjustable comb on the Guerini Summit Unsingle Trap Gun is seen here in the fully lowered position. The soft, ventilated recoil pad can also be seen, as well as the simple and tasteful 26-lines-per-inch checkering on the excellent oil-finished walnut stock.

a comfortable shooter. Bring it back sometime so I can play with all the adjustments built into the gun!" His son Billy also shot the Summit and was impressed. His first round was with the comb in the lowest position and the rib adjusted to give about a 70/30 POI. He lost two on the first post and ran the rest. After a short break, I adjusted the comb and rib to what he thought would be closer to the same settings on his gun, and he lost only one target and absolutely smoked the others. A huge smile and a long "Sweeeet!" emitted from Billy's lips after his practice rounds with the Summit.

Pattern testing revealed all of Guerini's calculations for the

The rib of the Summit Unsingle shown adjusted to the fully up position. This provides the shooter the flattest point-of-impact. Depending upon your sight plane, this position should give a 60/40 POI. The adjustment wheel, reference notches, set-screw recess and front bead are visible in this photo.

Having struggled all day with a gun I've shot for two years and then doing so well with the Summit impressed me. The direct recoil and nonexistent muzzle rise of the Unsingle makes for

adjustability of the rib and resulting POIs are virtually spot-on. I performed pattern and POI testing at 35 yards. My test ammo consisted of Rio's excellent paper Top Trap loads at 3 drams with

1 1/8 ounces of No. 8s, Federal's classic Gold Medal Paper shells at 2 3/4 drams 1 1/8 ounces of 8s, and the fine-performing B&P Comp 2000 loads that shoot soft at around 1,300 f.p.s. and send out 1 ounce of 7 1/2s.

Chokes I used were the supplied chokes Wes had shipped along with the gun. The constrictions in the chokes — off the .734 bore — were as follows: Light Modified, -.014; Modified, -.018; Improved Modified, -.024; and Extra-Full Maxis, -.039. I decided to shoot some preliminary test patterns with the Modified, IM and Extra-Full to check percentages and sizes. Shooting three shots for each pattern, the sizes and percentages of the patterns were true to expectations for each choke with all the test ammo.

The Extra-Full is the choke I finally settled on to perform my POI testing. Adjusting the rib to the lowest setting should have provided me with the highest POI. I started shooting for POI, but I was not coming up with quite the POI I thought I should have. A quick phone call to Wes led to some corrections. It seems the DTS was designed to perform at optimum level with a figure-eight bead picture. This was decided upon after many conversations with trapshooters who stated a figure-eight sight picture was the most desirable. I was shooting with an almost-flat picture where the beads were superimposed one into the other; therefore, my lower POI.

At the 35-yard distance, the Extra-Full Maxis Choke resulted in a consistent pattern of approximately 18" with all the test ammo. The center of the POI measured, in all cases, to an average of 11" above the point of aim. The reason I say an "average" of 11" is I shot all tests off-hand and can attribute some deviation of the POI to that.

When I adjusted the rib to the highest setting to give the lowest POI, the test shots confirmed a 60/40 POI. All patterns were centered an average of 1 1/2" above the point of aim. I was convinced the Guerini design for their adjustable rib and DTS worked well.

As with just about anything, the product is only as good as the service that backs it up. Caesar Guerini shotguns have a limited lifetime warranty, as well as their Pitstop Program. The Pitstop Program basically says, as a Caesar Guerini shotgun owner, you can return the gun to Guerini once a year for a totally free service and

tune-up (up to three times). Broken or badly worn parts are not part of this program. Turn-around time will be five to seven business days, and the only charge to you is shipping. This is a tangible sign of Guerini's dedication to their customers. It's their way of telling you service does not end when the sale is concluded. Their service is designed to help you protect your valuable investment and assure its performance.

As stated earlier, the Summit, Maxum and Magnus Trap Guns will be offered as combo units, also. The combo configurations will include 30"/32", 30"/34" and 32"/34". I was surprised to hear from Wes a 30"/34" combo configuration would be offered, but he assured me he had heard from many Guerini dealers that that configuration needed to be offered to American trapshooters. Again, Guerini listened.

Accessories for the Guerini Trap model will include three Allen-style wrenches — 5mm, 3mm and 1.5mm (the 5mm removes the stock, the 3mm removes the comb, and the 1.5mm adjusts the take-up on the trigger) — three Maxis Choke tubes —

SUMMIT TRAP UNSINGLE

CAESAR GUERINI SUMMIT TRAP

All measurements are based on average and subject to change.

Breech to Comb	7.5"
Cast at Heel	.19"
Cast at Toe	.35"
Comb Adjustability	.75"
Drop at Comb	.65"-1.4"
Drop at Heel	2.25"
Drop at Monte Carlo	.65"-1.4"
Length-of-Pull	14.8"
Pitch	5°
Reach	4.1"*

*Measured from center of trigger adjustment

Modified, IM and Full — in a choke-tube case, owner's manual and fitted Guerini hard-plastic case with combination locks.

I have included a sidebar that lists the standard dimensions of the stock.

Oh, there are two things I almost forgot to mention. We let it be known left-hand stocks should be available by the latter part of 2007. Good news for all you lefties out there! Second, the Summit will also be offered in an over & under version. Unsingle guns of either 32" or 34" will carry an MSRP of \$4,495, as will the 30" and 32" over & unders. The combos, in either 30"/32", 30"/34" or 32"/34", will have an MSRP of \$6,325. Sounds to me like more than a great deal on a trap gun of the Summit's quality!

By the time you read this review, the Caesar Guerini Summit Unsingle and its siblings, the Maxum and Magnus, should be on the way or already at your Guerini dealer. With superb looks, graceful lines, soft recoil, scads of adjustability, features and benefits that would make any Dale Carnegie Sales Academy graduate froth at the mouth and backed by the foremost warranty/service program in the country, don't you think it's time to stop in at your local Caesar Guerini dealer and check out the Summit Unsingle or Combo? Visit www.gueriniusa.com to see the new trap line. See you on the line...with your new Guerini! **SS**

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