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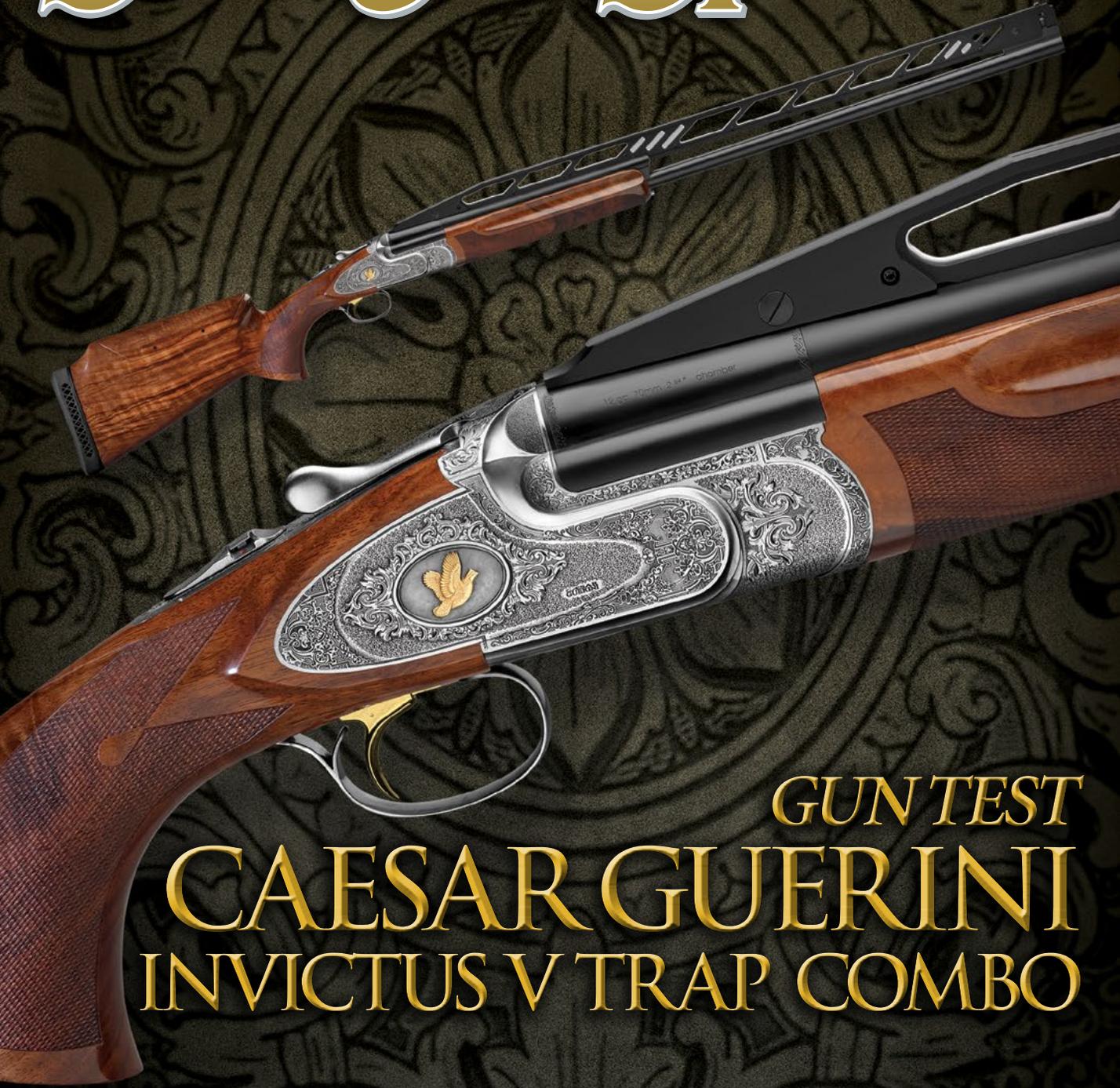
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GUN TEST
CAESAR GUERINI
INVICTUS V TRAP COMBO

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*photos courtesy of
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INVICTUS V TRAP COMBO

by Johnny Cantu

The Caesar Guerini Invictus series of competition shotguns now includes the Invictus V Trap Combo. The Invictus guns from Caesar Guerini are the only guns that make a claim of a service life of one-million rounds. Here is the Unsingle barrel with an extended choke in the muzzle.

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CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS V TRAP COMBO

The Invictus series of high-grade shotguns from Caesar Guerini are the only shotguns in the world, that I am aware of, making a claim of a total usable lifespan of up to and even beyond one million rounds! Imagine what it takes to build a shotgun with that kind of service life. Imagine the materials, the engineering, the precision in manufacturing and assembly to be able to make a claim like that. I have in three other reviews provided the answers to questions as to what it takes to be able to make a claim of a service life of one million rounds. The technical aspects of the Invictus guns, the details of the internal components that create this incredible working platform have been sufficiently detailed in my previous reviews.

So, in this review of the Caesar Guerini Invictus V Trap Combo I will not be repeating that information. In lieu of technical data repetition, you will be referred to the previous reviews in the issues they originally appeared. Those issues were the April 2018 issue of *Shotgun Sports* that featured the review of the beautiful Invictus III Sporting, the September 2016 issue of *Shotgun Sports* featuring the Invictus V Sporting, and my first review on the Invictus Sporting which appeared in the May 2014 issue of *Shotgun Sports*. (Editor's note: These issues are still available by calling 800-676-8920.)



The Invictus V Trap Combo includes the 34" Unsingle barrel and a 32" Over/Under barrel (seen here). Both barrels maintain an adjustable rib.

The Invictus V Trap Combo arrived at my office during the deadly California forest fires of the past summer that made national headlines. Resulting smoke kept me from trekking out to the range to test the combo as soon as I would have liked. But the noxious smoke finally abated to a level where I could put up with being outside long enough to range test the Guerini.

One of the many features of the Caesar Guerini line of shotguns is their elegance and adornment. The sculptured lines of the Caesar Guerini shotguns would be pleasing to the eye even without a scratch of engraving. Luckily for us, Guerini maintains some of the finest engravers in the world to decorate their shotguns. The Invictus V Trap Combo is

engraved with a combination of several styles ranging from the ultra-fine filigree, which fills the majority of background to the more pronounced and striking vine and leaf scroll, as well as gold grouse figures on the sideplates. The look is described as ornato-style engraving, emphasizing the highly ornate patterns of engraving.

Features and specifications of the Invictus V Trap Combo include: 34" Unsingle barrel with 12mm adjustable DTS (Dynamic Tuning System) rib adjustable from 50/50 to 120 POI and 32" Over/Under barrel with 12mm adjustable DTS rib adjustable from 50/50 to 90/10 POI. Barrels maintain 2³/₄" chambers, 5" Duo-Con forcing cones. The .735 (average) bore I.D.'s are chrome-lined for maximum protection against rust, corrosion and barrel scoring from the load's pellets.



The Invictus V Trap Combo is a fully loaded example of a modern, clay target competition shotgun. The Guerini DTS (Dynamic Tuning System) allows customizing of the balance and weight of the gun as well as maintaining a totally adjustable stock, rib and trigger. There is not much more you would ever need after you get one of these home...except perhaps start to save for all those rounds you will want to shoot.

The superb Caesar Guerini DPS trigger is adjustable for over travel, length of pull and take up. Receivers of Guerini shotguns are hand-polished to a coin finish as are the forend iron, trigger guard and top lever.

Subsequently, these components are protected by the trademarked Invisalloy® finish. So when you start closing in on that one-million round threshold, you will be as proud to show-off your Invictus V Trap Combo as you were when you took your first shot with it. The selected European walnut stock and forend have a hand-rubbed oil finish. Checkering is performed upon these in a classic point style at 26 lines per inch. Sharp, clean checkering allows you better grip and thus control of the gun under the stresses of competition.

Average weight of the Invictus V Trap Combo is 9 lbs. 5 oz. (can differ slightly due to wood density). My test sample weighed almost 2 oz. more than the average, and my shoulder was glad. The extra couple of ounces helped to mitigate the effects of recoil. Speaking of reduced recoil, the receiver itself maintains a larger bearing surface area between the action and forend iron, resulting in increased strength and reduced friction as well as reduced recoil due to the greater mass.

Screw-in chokes included with both the Unsingle and O/U barrels are the Modified, Improved Modified and Full (w/ Unsingle), Light Mod., Mod, Imp. Mod., Light Full and Full (with O/U). These are the Maxis chokes from Caesar Guerini and, I can assure you, these bad boys will evaporate targets.

The Maxis chokes are not slotted on the muzzle edge like most screw-in chokes because they do not use a typical choke wrench to insert or remove from the muzzle. The Maxis chokes use a friction-type choke wrench that grips the inside walls of the choke to insert and/or remove the choke from the barrel.

As I stated in the opening paragraphs of this review, when the Invictus V Trap Combo arrived at my office, the majority of Northern California and large areas of the western United States were being inundated with smoke from the raging wildfires. Eventually, the fires were being controlled, and I finally had my chance to range test the Invictus V Trap Combo without being exposed to excessive smoke.

The first shots fired from my test sample were on Doubles targets. This was not my normal procedure, but Doubles is my favorite trap game, so I figured why not? The ammo of choice that day was RIO's 1 oz. Sporting Clays load of hard 8s launched at around 1,235 f.p.s. This is an excellent load for any clay target game, be it Skeet, Trap Singles, Trap Doubles, Trap Handicap or, of course, Sporting Clays. I get a kick out of watching those clay targets vaporize into black smoke balls and this load helps me do that.

Of course, the correct choke choice is necessary to start crunching on Doubles targets. My choices were the Light Modified for the bottom barrel for the first shot, and the Improved Modified for the second shot. The smoke was still heavy enough the atmosphere at ground level was not

CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS V TRAP COMBO

allowing a distinct contrast of the target against a very hazy background. Not surprisingly, my scores were not world-class level on the first 50 targets. However, my scores were not the fault of the Invictus V Trap Combo. The targets I did hit were clearly defined against the background as black balls of smoke against pale gray.

The Guerini Invictus V Trap Combo was heavier than I was used to, but recoil was comfortable, and the Guerini moved precisely to and through the image of the target and held a nice follow-through as well. As I was finishing up the second round of Doubles with the Invictus V Trap Combo, I noticed I was beginning to find my feel and rhythm with it. The third round only witnessed one miss and the fourth none. The other club members who were watching me test the gun walked up between rounds and asked a few questions. A couple of them took a few shots with the Invictus V Trap Combo and came away impressed with its looks, heft, features and abundance of service life. One member asked, "Johnny, do you really think anyone is going to live long enough to actually fire their one-millionth round in the gun? Who is going to do that?" I responded, "Probably your grandchildren." He nodded and said, "You're probably right."

The 34" Unsingle barrel was looking unappreciated all by itself in the gun case. I inserted the Light Full Maxis choke in the muzzle (after proper lubrication), set the trap microphone at the 23-yard line and called for my first target. Instead of a nice, clean, whole target, what I got was some trash that included a pair of leather gloves flying out of the bunker. That wasn't right. The club manager came running onto the field, asked me to unload my gun, which I was doing as he ran past me and yelled into his Walkie-Talkie if anyone was in Trap #5. It seemed someone left some items on the arm of the trap when they were last in the bunker. No injuries occurred, so I continued my testing.

The adjustable rib on the 32" O/U barrel I had just finished shooting Doubles with needed no adjustment for me to hit targets. However, the tall rib of the Unsingle barrel was a different story. I adjusted the rib to produce about a 70/30 POI at the distance I was shooting and went back onto the range. My, oh my! Does this rascal burn up targets? After three rounds, I was getting a bit tired but not of how the gun broke birds. I let a few members take some shots with the Invictus V Trap Combo while I relaxed in a lounge chair watching. All comments were complimentary and ranged from a simple "Nice gun" to "Wow! Not just great looking, but shoots like it looks."

The Caesar Guerini Invictus V Trap Combo carries an MSRP of \$14,425 that will get you the 34" Unsingle and 32" O/U barrels. The combo comes in a fitted case with all accessories and stock/receiver cover sleeve, as well as barrel sleeves for the 34" and 32" barrels, choke wrench, stock and trigger wrenches and manuals. This shotgun is a genuine marvel of design engineering.

Find a Caesar Guerini dealer near you to get a first-hand look at the Invictus V Trap Combo, look online or call a Caesar Guerini dealer advertising in our magazine and make your best deal. Be sure to tell them you read about the Caesar Guerini Invictus V Trap Combo in *Shotgun Sports*. **SS**

The Invictus V Trap receiver would be pleasing to the eye without a scratch of engraving. Fortunately, Caesar Guerini maintains some of the finest engravers in the world to engrave their guns.





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