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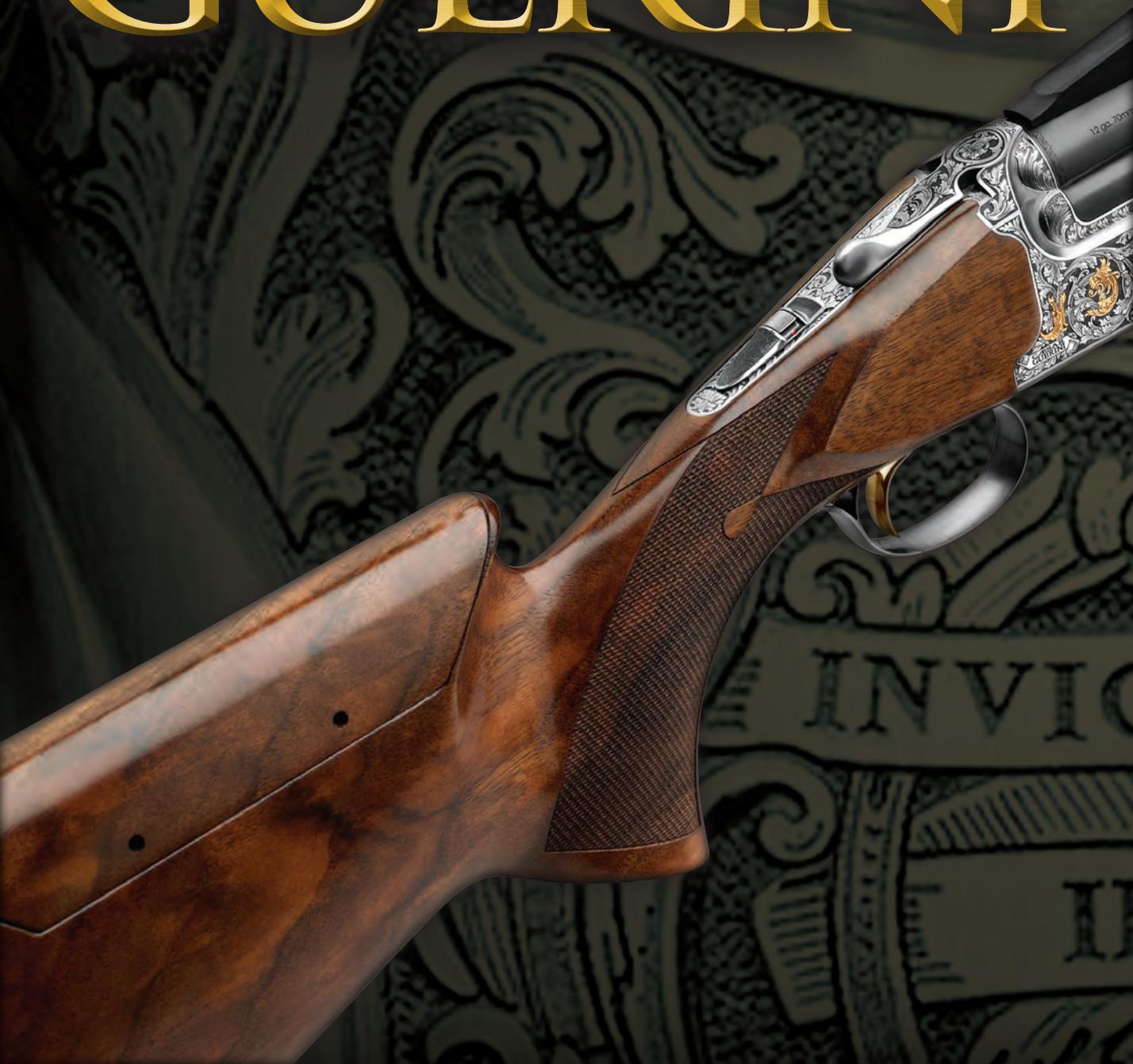
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GUN TEST
CAESAR
GUERINI
INVICTUS III
TRAP COMBO

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CAESAR
GUERINI





INVICTUS III TRAP COMBO

by Johnny Cantu

Caesar Guerini shotguns have gained the reputation of producing high-performance shotguns, such as the long life expectancy of the Invictus line of shotguns. They have also earned a reputation for building shotguns that goes to the next level of aesthetics. The new Invictus III Trap is just such an example of the art that Caesar Guerini firearms display.

photos courtesy of Caesar Guerini USA

CAESAR GUERINI

INVICTUS III TRAP COMBO

Borrowing from the gun test I wrote on the original Invictus III Sporting in the April 2018 issue of *Shotgun Sports*, since the debut of the original Invictus, variants have spawned. There are now 11 models of the amazingly durable Invictus design. I will list them here for your convenience: *The Invictus I Sporting*, *Invictus I Sporting M-SPEC*, *Invictus III Sporting* (reviewed in the April 2018 issue of *Shotgun Sports*), *Invictus V Sporting* (A Caesar Guerini Elite Dealer Exclusive), *Invictus VII Sporting* (A Guerini Elite Dealer Exclusive), *Invictus*

This profile view of the Invictus III Trap shows the Unsingle barrel with its adjustable rib. The adjustment range runs from a 50/50 POI to a 120% high POI.



I Ascent, *Invictus III Ascent*, *Invictus V Ascent* (An Elite Dealer Exclusive), *Invictus I Trap* (available as an Unsingle, O/U and Combo), the *Invictus III Trap* (available only as a Combo) and finally the *Invictus V Trap* (available only as a Combo and is an Elite Dealer Exclusive).

In case you have been doing a Rip Van Winkle impersonation the last few years, the basic premise of the Invictus design has to do with extremely long service life. The claim is the Invictus models can and will exceed a service life of 1 million rounds. This is accomplished by and with the use of specially designed internal components that can be replaced once wear becomes a threat to proper and safe functioning thus returning the gun back to original specs. To the best of my knowledge, Caesar Guerini is the only shotgun manufacturer in the world who makes such a bold claim. In short, Guerini feels very confident that you, your children and your grandchildren will be shooting the very same gun of the Invictus models for generations to come.



CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS III TRAP COMBO



(Left) The underside of the Invictus III Trap is as stunning as the rest of the gargoyle and dragon head engraved surfaces.

Now that is a bold claim, but it will take a bit of time to see who out there will be the first to submit that claim.

If you take a moment to locate your April 2018 issue of *Shotgun Sports*, you will immediately notice the unique look of the Invictus III, the spectacular engraving on the metal surfaces of the gun. The beautiful leaf scroll motif is further enhanced with eye-catching and fascinating gold heads of fantastic creatures, dragons and gargoyles, to be more precise. Caesar Guerini USA President, Wes Lang, and I both have felt for many years that fantasy creatures engraved on high-quality shotguns were particularly attractive. The wonderfully done engraving is performed by the famous Bottega

Di Giovanelli. This arthouse has been creating magnificent pieces of art on shotguns for many of the most famous and coveted brands of firearms in the world.

The trap version of the Invictus III is the same lavishly engraved receiver as the sporter except now there is a trap stock and two barrels that fit the receiver, an over/under that sports an adjustable rib and an Unsingle barrel that also maintains an adjustable rib. On the opposite end of the gun is the buttstock with its Monte Carlo 4-way adjustable comb hardware waiting to be adjusted to give you that perfect sight alignment and desired Point of Impact.

The stock and forearm of the sample I received from the Caesar Guerini folks in Cambridge, MD, are attractive with



better-than-average color and grain. Like most guns manufactured on a production basis, checkering is a classic point style at what I measured to be around 20 lines per inch. The visual appeal of the point checkering is enhanced by the accent gesture of a teardrop or dewdrop just behind the right and left panels of the head of the stock. The pistol grip of the Invictus III trap sports a palm swell that fills my medium-small hands well without feeling like I have to make a conscious effort to hold onto it while firing. My custom dimension here would have the palm swell cut just a little bit smaller, but the factory size should fit most shooters quite well.

One of the features of the Invictus system is what is known as the Action Control System. This easy-to-use device lets the shooter adjust the tension on the forend simply by turning an adjustment screw. The stiffness of the opening of the action can be controlled by the shooter.

The new Durability, Precision, Speed (DPS) trigger of the Invictus III Trap uses redesigned hammers with a different geometry and tighter tolerances. An industrial chrome coating gives the hammers superior lubricity making the Invictus III trigger durable, precise and

consistent. The trigger can be adjusted for poundage and length of travel of the trigger shoe up to one-half inch within the trigger guard. Trigger options available include Single and Double Release triggers (12 gauge).

The rib of both the Unsingle and the over/under barrels are the Alucore® style that give the rib extra rigidity, and thus less chance of a dented rib should the gun be bumped or placed in the gun rack a little too briskly. Alucore® is the structure within the frame of the rib that acts as a sort of internal support, kind of like a skeleton.

Speaking of ribs, I mentioned both barrels of the Invictus III Trap combo have adjustable ribs. The Unsingle rib gives a POI adjustment range from 50/50 to 120%, and the range of the over/under rib is from 50/50 to 90/10%. Couple this with the adjustable comb at the rear, and you have tremendous range of overall movement and adjustability. This should satisfy all shooters in their wants or needs of adjustment.

Before I get too far into my review of the Invictus III Trap Combo, allow me to list some general information of this fine shotgun.

Caesar Guerini — Invictus III Trap Combo

- Barrels: 32"/34" with 5" Duo Cone Forcing Cones
- Receiver: Specially engraved leaf scroll accented with gold heads of fantasy creatures, gargoyles and dragons
- Chambers: 12 gauge 2¾" Chrome
- Stock: Turkish Walnut with hand-rubbed oil finish
- Bore: .735 Chrome lined
- Drop @ Heel: 2.25"
- Drop @ Monte Carlo: 1.8"
- Drop @ Comb: 1.5"
- Cast @ Heel: .12"
- Cast @ Toe: .2"
- Length of Pull: 14.9"

Available options for Invictus III Trap: Barrel Balancer Weights, DTS Kinetic Balancer and weights. Left-hand stocks are available.

The excellent patterning MAXIS Choke tubes are included in the carrying and storage case of the Invictus III Trap. My test sample came with five chokes: Lt. Mod. with an at-the-muzzle constriction of .015 off of the I.D. of .735; Modified .020/.735; Improved Modified .025/.735; Lt. Full .030/.735

CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS III TRAP COMBO

and Full .035/.735. The MAXIS chokes are famous for the manner in which they destroy targets.

I tested the Invictus III Trap first with the over/under barrels attached and made use of the Lt. Modified and Modified MAXIS chokes on Singles targets. I shot a 1 oz. load of hard 7½s made by NobelSport launched at 1,300 f.p.s. This is their NobelSpeed class of loads. In most guns, the 1,300 f.p.s. one-ouncer would punch me a little, especially when testing a stock that does not fit me, as most out-of-the-box guns tend not to do. However, the weight of the Invictus III Trap helped to kill some of the recoil. The Invictus III is not particularly overweight at only

8.25 and 8.6 lbs., respectively for the Unsingle and the Over/Under barrels. My adjustment of the rib on the O/U barrel resulted in what I perceived as a 60/40 pattern POI. However, it worked nicely as I took an extra moment on every target until I was settled in with my timing at 16 yards.

The hits on about 15 pair of Doubles targets were impressive. The MAXIS chokes sure hit hard. I took a break so a few of the members watching could visit my table and be awed by the gold gargoyles and dragons inlaid on the receiver. Most of the onlookers commented the Invictus III was too pretty to take to the range.

One member came up and asked if he could take a shot or two with the

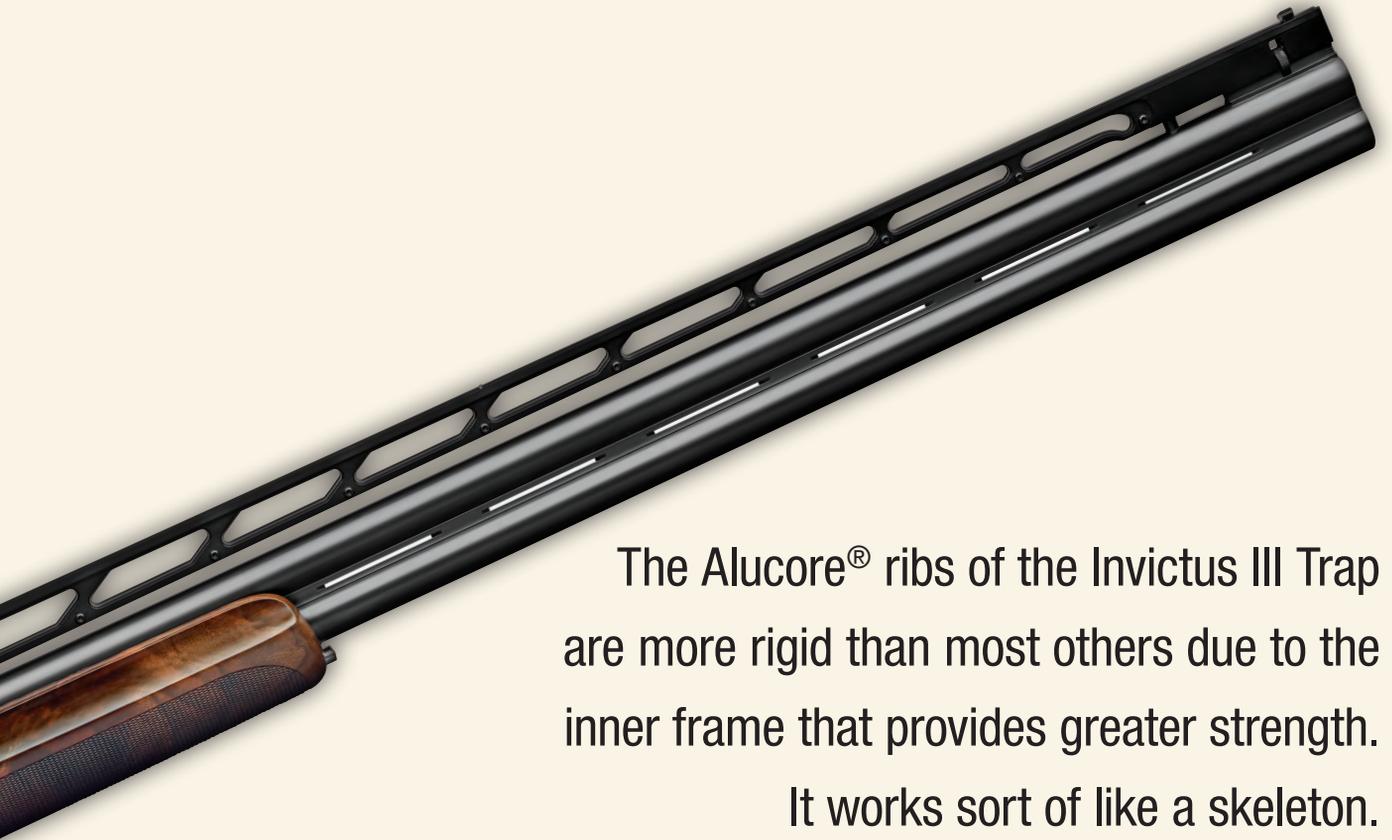
Invictus III Trap. I set the comb to a position he approved. He walked to Post 3 and shot three targets centering each one right at the apex of the flight of the bird. He turned to me with a huge smile on his face. “That is the hardest I have ever hit a target in my life,” he said. “Thanks, Johnny.”

I finished my afternoon at the club with a couple of rounds from the 22 and then the 27-yard line. The MAXIS Full, the 1,300 f.p.s. NobelSport loads and the Unsingle barrel were a combination I could relax with and just take my time busting birds.

With an MSRP of \$13,950, the Invictus III Trap will not fit into everyone’s budget. But the gun is more than just a

The full-length right profile of the
Caesar Guerini Invictus III Trap
with the 4-way adjustable
Monte Carlo comb.





The Alucore® ribs of the Invictus III Trap are more rigid than most others due to the inner frame that provides greater strength. It works sort of like a skeleton.

Photo by Johnny Cantu



CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS III TRAP COMBO

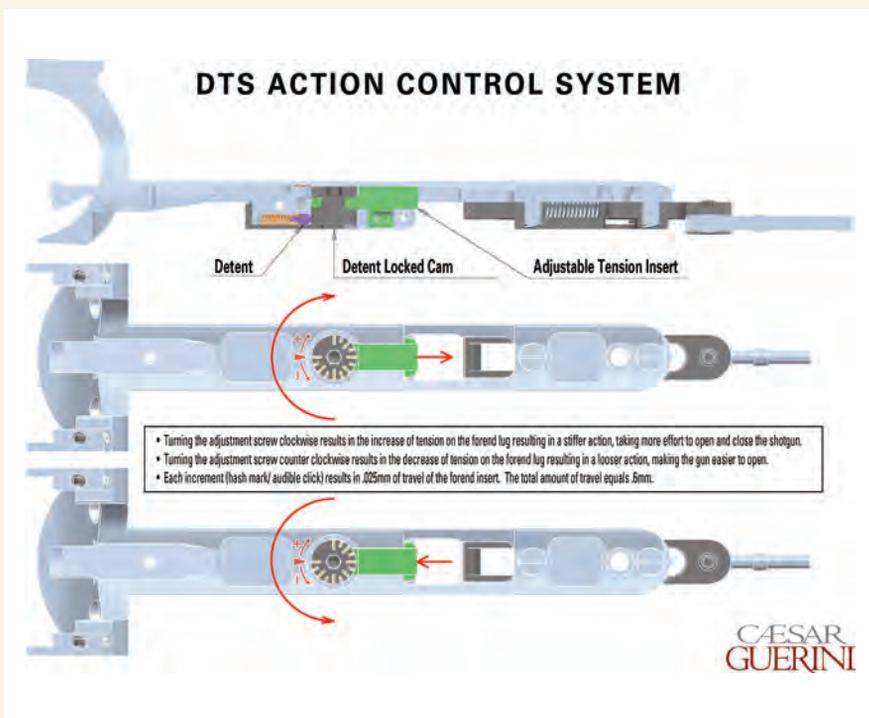


great target-breaker, it is a piece of art... a beautiful gun you and your kids and their kids will shoot for years.

For a more complete explanation of the design of the Invictus line from Caesar Guerini, order the full-line catalog of Caesar Guerini shotguns at (410) 901-1131 or at their website at GUERINIUSA.COM.

Find the nearest Caesar Guerini dealer to you at gueriniusa.com, then give them a call and arrange to check out the stunning Invictus III Trap. Be sure to tell them you read about the Invictus III in your favorite shotgun magazine, *Shotgun Sports*. **SS**

(Right): The ingenious DTS Action Control System allows the shooter to adjust the stiffness of the forearm to the receiver by doing nothing more than turning an adjustment screw.





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