

CAESAR GUERINI'S NEW INVICTUS V

BY NICK SISLEY

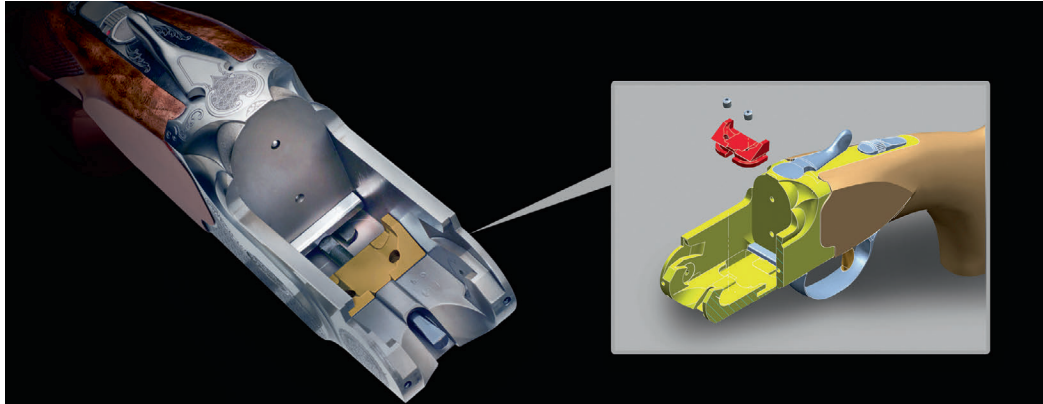
Back in 2014, as a result of Caesar Guerini's ongoing pursuit to make the most durable target shotgun possible, they created the Invictus system. It was the most significant advancement in over-under durability in many years.

When a shotgun gets too loose to close strongly and safely, it's because the recoil lug contacts are

no longer tight. The Invictus design rectifies this problem by making the recoil lug bases in the bottom of the receiver replaceable – called the Invictus Block. For the first time you can measure the life span of your shotgun not by how long you can shoot it, but how long your children and grandchildren can! Caesar Guerini backs up this commitment with their limited

Lifetime Warranty on every shotgun they sell.

A second factor that makes the Invictus unique is the engineering that changes how the barrels pivot on the receiver. There are no trunnions or hinge pins. The front of the monobloc pivots on a radius which is also easy to replace – just loosen and remove two nuts to replace.



THE INVICTUS BLOCK INCREASES THE LOCKING SURFACE AREA BETWEEN THE BARREL AND THE ACTION, INCREASING DURABILITY. THIS PART IS ALSO REPLACEABLE, MULTIPLYING THE LONGEVITY OF THE ACTION. THE RESULT IS A GUN THAT IS MORE DURABLE FROM THE START, BUT ALSO CAN BE REBUILT IN A WAY NO OTHER OVER-AND-UNDER CAN.



THE INVICTUS CAMS ELIMINATE CONVENTIONAL HINGE PINS AND TRUNNIONS. THIS SYSTEM MAKES THE INVICTUS THE FIRST DOUBLE GUN THAT CAN MOVE THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE BARRELS TO THE ACTION. THIS ALLOWS THE BARRELS TO BE MOVED REARWARD TO ELIMINATE ANY POTENTIAL 'OFF FACE' CONDITION.



Replacement parts are not expensive and the engineering ensures that replacement takes very little time once the gun is in the hands of a Guerini gunsmith.

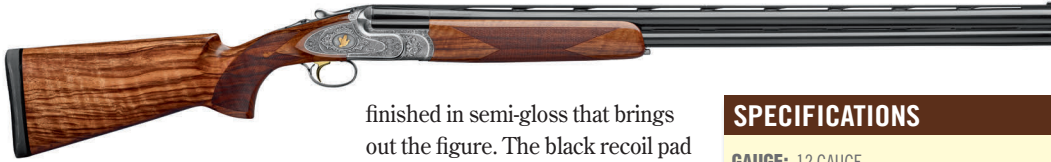
While the Invictus is a boxlock action, the new Invictus V model features false sideplates – a stunning shotgun once in hand. The extensive engraving is the first feature to catch the eye. Close inspection of the wood fit to the sideplates on my test gun is perfect.

Four different engraving techniques are involved. The coverage is full and intricate. The longer one studies the engraving pattern the more is seen – plus the detail impresses for many minutes of close securitization. There's a flushing pheasant in gold on the left side of the receiver and a flushing quail on the right side. The receiver bottom is also fully engraved, plus there is matching engraving on the trigger guard, the opening lever, the top tang, the fore-end iron and the fences. The engraving pattern was designed by Bottega Giovannelli, perhaps Italy's best known and most heralded engraving firm.

The Invictus V incorporates a new trigger system, named the DPS2. I found it extremely light, and so did others I had shoot the gun. There's also a crispness and speed that competition shooters will love. On my Lyman Digital Trigger-Pull Scale the trigger went



THE GOLD-PLATED TRIGGER CAN BE MOVED BACK AND FORTH TO ATTAIN PERFECT GRIP-TO-TRIGGER DISTANCE.



off at just less than 2.5 pounds. There was not a stitch of creep. These are inertia triggers and the trigger itself is not only gold plated but also can be moved back and forth so the shooter can attain his or her perfect grip-to-trigger distance.

The receiver is highly hand polished – resulting in a somewhat bright ‘coin finish’. The metal parts then receive Guerini’s proprietary Invalloy® finish that protects it against rust and other corrosion.

The new Invictus V lock up system works in the same way as the original Invictus – the latter still available.

The Invictus V stock doesn’t take a back seat to the engraving as it’s a high grade of walnut and

finished in semi-gloss that brings out the figure. The black recoil pad is somewhat curved – the thinnest portion 3/8ths thick and separated from the stock with a black spacer. Note the re-curve of the pistol grip in the close-up photograph – as well as the checkering done at 26 lines-to-the-inch. There is a right-side palm swell, but left hand stocks are available. My test gun did not have an adjustable comb, but one is available at added cost.

The fore-end is somewhat round in shape with plenty of that 26 lines-to-the-inch checkering on both sides and bottom. The fore-end release is via a push button on the front.

The test gun weighed 8 pounds 1.5 ounces. The fore-end went 9.7 ounces and the 32-inch barrels weighed 3 pounds 7.5 ounces.

SPECIFICATIONS

GAUGE: 12 GAUGE
ACTION: OVER AND UNDER
WEIGHT: 8 POUNDS 1.5 OUNCES
BARRELS: 32-INCHES TESTED
STOCK DIMENSIONS: 14.75 x 1.5 x 2.25
SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$8795. ADD \$230 FOR LEFT-HAND STOCK. ADD \$375 FOR ADJUSTABLE COMB
MANUFACTURER/IMPORTER: MADE IN ITALY BY CAESAR GUERINI, IMPORTED BY CAESAR GUERINI USA IN CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND. www.gueriniusa.com

Using my Baker Barrel Reader I measured the top and bottom bores at .734. Six 3 1/4 inch extended screw chokes came with the test package. The Cylinder measured .734, the Skeet .732, one Improved Cylinder went .727, the other .723, the Light Mod measured .722 and the Modified .717.

On Test

I shot this gun quite a bit myself and had at least five additional shotgunners put the Invictus V through its paces. Two of Brian Fox’s sons wanted to give it a try – they were impressed. Their Dad also shot the Invictus V. When his shooting was over Brian jokingly said, “Nick, I’ll trade you my new pickup truck for that Invictus,” at the same time pointing to his shiny new red extended cab truck. He was kidding, of course, but his comment was indicative of how much he liked this new sporting model.

Considering the side plates, the intensive engraving, the wood upgrade, the quality checkering, the replaceable Invictus Block and the gun’s durability, there’s a heck of a lot of value in this gun at \$8795. Invictus is a Latin word meaning ‘invincible’ – this shotgun is aptly named. ■



THE STOCK IS DEFINITELY AN UPGRADE – LOTS OF FIGURE, HIGH GLOSS FINISH AND PORES WELL FILLED.



THE PISTOL GRIP HAS SIGNIFICANT RE-CURVE – AND CHECK OUT THAT IMPECCABLE 26 LINES-TO-THE-INCH CHECKERING.



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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017 JOURNAL 88



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