

Light as a Feather

CG's Tempio line was built for long days afield.

CAESAR GUERINI HAS significantly made its mark in the shotgunner's world and has garnered one heck of a lot of market share...and deservedly so. The Tempio line has been a part of the company's over/under mix since its inception, and the Light has been offered to shotgunners for almost as long. When it comes to hunting guns the Tempio models have probably been the company's best sellers. The first year this model was introduced *Field & Stream* magazine dubbed it their "Best of the Best!"

What is the Tempio and what is the Tempio Light? Again, both are hunting guns and are tailored to the uplands as opposed to, say, competition.

Further, both models are offered in 12, 20, 28, .410 (on special order) and a combo 20/28 set. All gauges are very light—especially the Tempio Light. How does Guerini achieve this light weight?

The standard Tempio is made from a steel billet, thus a steel receiver. In 28-gauge, the standard Tempio weighs 6 pounds 6 ounces with 28-inch barrels. But the 28 gauge Tempio Light I tested, also with 28-inch barrels, only weighed 5 pounds 4.5 ounces on my digital postal scale. That's how much weight is saved (about a pound) by switching from steel to a high strength aluminum alloy receiver. Further, Tempio Light stocks are also hollowed out to help lower weight—

but balance is still maintained at the gun's midpoint or hinge.

What also sets the Tempio and Tempio Light models apart is the engraving, and recently that engraving has been upgraded—all through the design of Italy's best-known engraving artist, Bottega Giovenelli. Check the close-up photo of the receiver with the ornamental scroll and gold inlays—the inlays also engraved.

Some of this engraving involves very small scroll and rosettes, though some are a bit larger as well as more deeply cut. While the engraving on the receiver sides is certainly eye-catching, the engraving on the bottom of the receiver, I think, is even

greater in detail. There's also intricate rose and scroll on the trigger guard, as well as on the opening lever, the top tang, and the fences (just behind the blued top barrel).

The trigger is gold plated and the pistol grip is open, like the Prince of Wales style of old. I think such an open grip makes carrying the gun a bit more comfortable. Also, quickly mounting the gun can be easier with such a grip. Competition shooters tend to like lots of re-curve to the pistol grip, and such a grip is beneficial when the gun is fully mounted or nearly fully mounted before calling for the bird. But when a quail or pheasant jumps unexpectedly, the Prince of Wales-type grip shines.

There's also the checkering, beautifully done on the grip and the fore-end where it wraps around. I couldn't find a flaw, and it is done at 26 lines to the inch! I don't know of any shotgun company that makes checkering any finer.

There's more. The stock is oil finished, thus imparting a traditional look, but the crowning glory here is the separate walnut butt plate. There's no recoil pad because who needs one in an upland gun that's not going to be fired a 100 times a day?

The butt plate is fit to the stock perfectly—no seams to be found. Further, that wood butt plate is rounded all around. It never hung up when mounting in all the shooting I did with this gun, which was a lot. There are crosswise serrations on the butt plate to help keep the stock in place once you have it mounted.

The fore-end is Schnabel in shape. The 28-inch barrels are deeply blued. On top is a rib that's 6mm wide front to back, i.e., .24-inches. The rib is well serrated on top to aid against distracting glare, and most of you know how birds flush into the sun late in the afternoon.

The safety is non-automatic, so it does not switch to on when you open the gun after shooting. Trigger pull is at just over 4.5 pounds, with very little creep. Triggers are of the inertia type so the first barrel must go off to cock the hammer for the second barrel.

My shooting was all done on clay targets since no birds were in season when I was putting this Tempio Light through the paces. I shot a lot of clays, but I concentrated on shooting with a non-mounted gun at skeet stations Six and Seven, mainly shooting the low house bird. The Low Seven presents the straightaway clay that simulates a real straightaway bird. It's a good clay to practice on, allowing you to concentrate on working with both hands in unison.

The low bird on skeet station Six allows repetitive practice on the quartering away bird, and we all see lots of those in the field. This is another station where you can work on getting the hands to work in unison. If the hand on the grip comes into play more than the fore-end hand the muzzles are going to dip down.

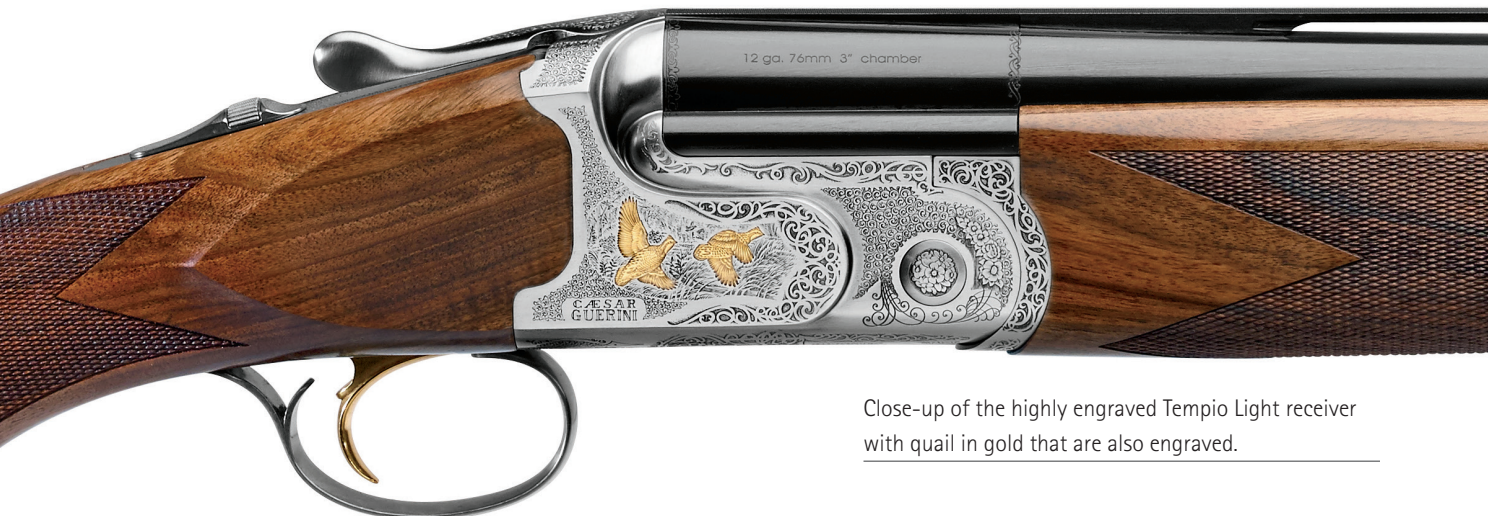
Another bonus of repetitive practice with a hunting gun on this quartering away target is to also work on start-

ing the swing first, and then blending in mounting the stock to the shoulder. I really enjoyed putting the Tempio Light 28-gauge test gun to work on these two stations, and doing so brought back memories of how to perform these moves correctly.

Traditionally 28-gauge bores have measured .550 internally. My test barrels were overbored to .552. The gun came with five flush-mounted screw chokes. The Cylinder measured .552 on my Baker Barrel Reader—for .000 constriction. The Improved Cylinder measured .546, the Modified .540, the Improved Modified .537, the Full .531.

Lock up is pretty much standard for many of today's over/unders. Barrels pivot on trunnions. A bolt based at the bottom of the receiver moves forward upon closing to engage lugs milled into the bottom of the monobloc. Additionally, there are two recoil lugs milled into the base of the monobloc that dovetail into matching recesses milled out of the bottom of the receiver.

The fore-end weighed 8.3 ounces on my digital postal scale, the 28-inch barrels weighed 2 pounds 8 ounces. Suggested retail is \$4,075. There is one heck of a lot of value in the Tempio Light. *



Close-up of the highly engraved Tempio Light receiver with quail in gold that are also engraved.

CAESAR GUERINI | Tempio Light

Manufacturer	Caesar Guerini; gueriniusa.com
Action	Over/Under
Gauge	28 (tested); also offered in 12, 20
Weight	5 pounds 4.5 ounces
Length of Pull	14¾"
Chokes	5 flush mounted screw-ins (C, IC, M, IM, F)
Barrel Length	26", 28"
Stock Finish	Hand-rubbed oil
Trigger	Single-selective
MSRP	\$4,075

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