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INVICTUS III  
SPORTING**

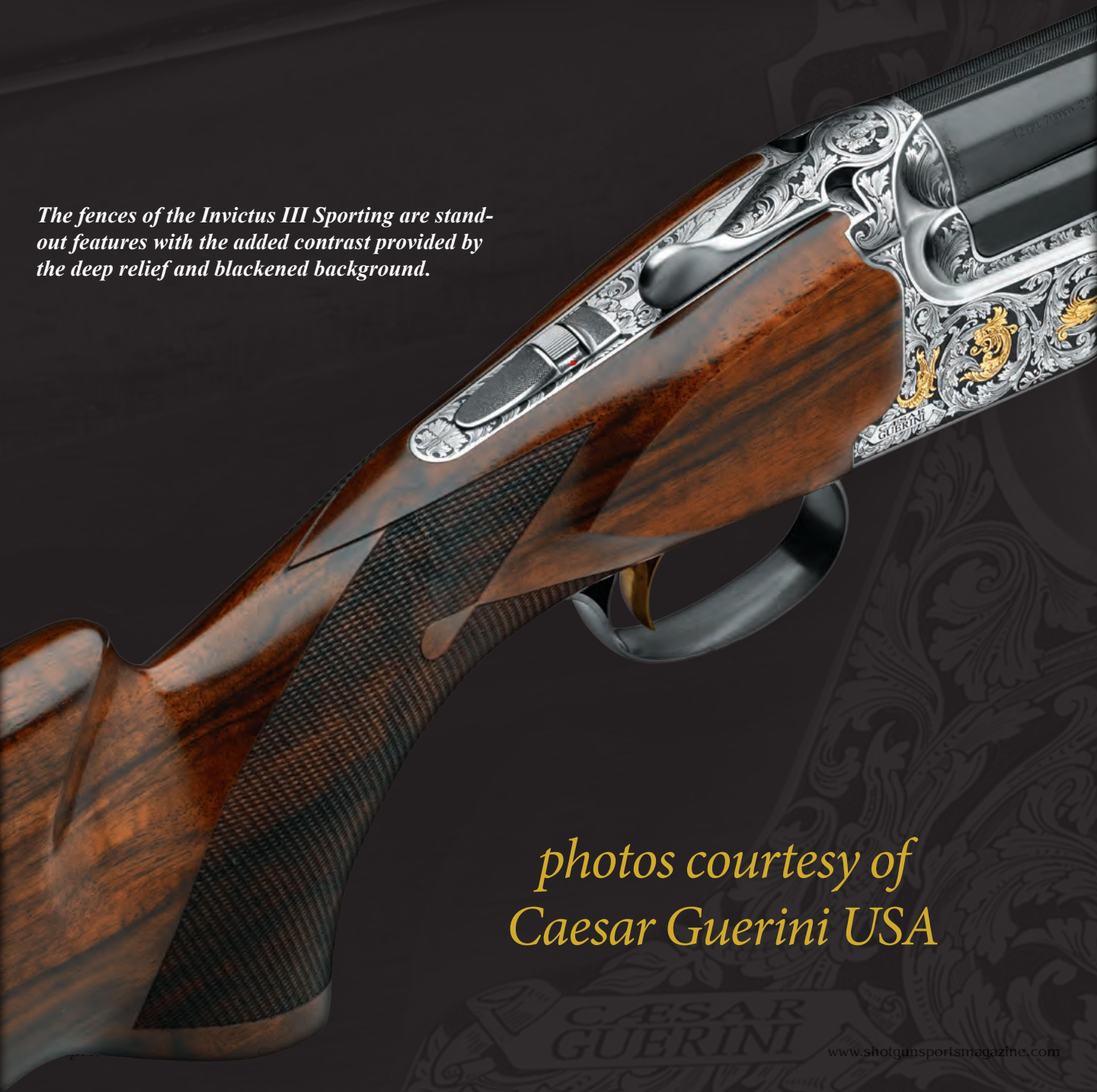


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# CAESAR GUERINI

*The fences of the Invictus III Sporting are stand-out features with the added contrast provided by the deep relief and blackened background.*



*photos courtesy of  
Caesar Guerini USA*



*NEW*  
**INVICTUS III**  
**SPORTING**

*by Johnny Cantu*

*This review of the Caesar Guerini Invictus III Sporting appeared originally in the April 2018 issue of Shotgun Sports.*



# CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS III SPORTING

What would you say would be a good lifespan in terms of rounds fired for a shotgun — 50,000, 100,000, 200,000? I would guess most of us would think a gun that has withstood the total pressure of 200,000 shots has pretty much come to the end of its usable service life.

But not the folks at Caesar Guerini, the Italian gunmaker who produces some of the most elegant and durable shotguns in the world. Within the Guerini line-up of target over/under models, the Invictus series claims a usable service lifespan of up to (and conceivably beyond) one million rounds! Astounding! That was the claim made at the 2014 S.H.O.T. Show in Las Vegas, NV. Well, I'm not sure anyone has actually taken one million shots with an Invictus yet, but the owners of Invictus models I have spoken to all feel very confident their gun will be the first one to officially break the one-million-round threshold.

Since the debut of the original Invictus, variants have spawned. There are now four Invictus I models within the Guerini line-up: the Invictus I Sporting, Invictus I Trap, Invictus I M-Spec and the Invictus I Ascent.

The Invictus V will appeal to the shooter who enjoys the look of a side-plated shotgun. The side plates are highly engraved with gold accents. The Invictus V can be purchased in a Sporting or Trap version. The Trap version is available as an over/under or an unsingle.

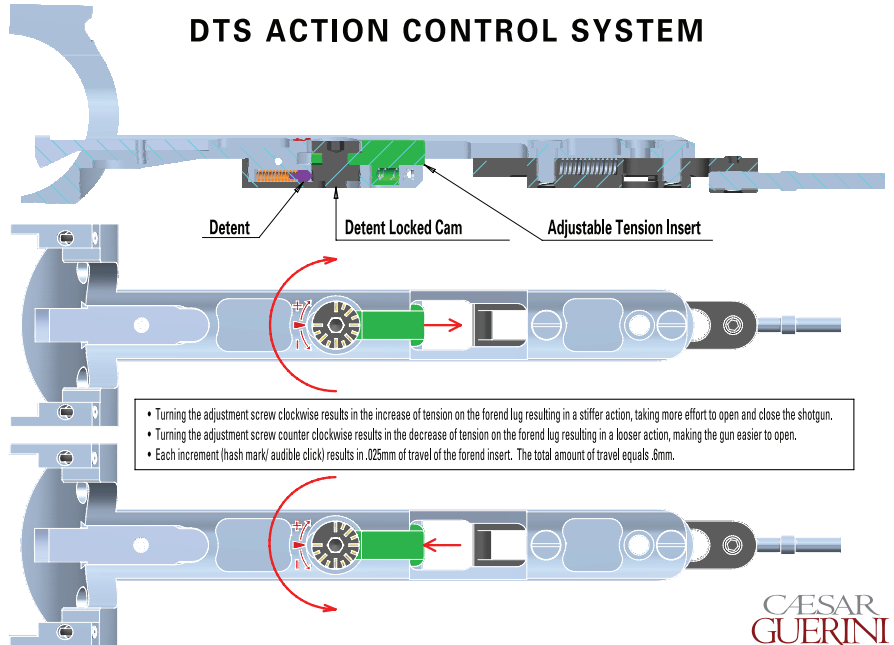
More recently, at the 2018 S.H.O.T. Show in Las Vegas, Caesar Guerini USA debuted two new Invictus models, the Invictus III Sporting and the Invictus VII Sporting. The VII Sporting is a variant of the side-plated Invictus V. The new VII Sporting features gold game scenes on the side plates.

But it is the Invictus III Sporting this review is centered on. The technology behind the claim of a one-million-round lifespan for the Invictus series is based on replaceable components within the receiver of the gun that compensate

for wear. These components not only bring the gun back “on face”, they also return the barrel/action relationship back to factory specification. The end result is a gun that has a much longer usable service life than other brands. For a more detailed description of the Invictus technology behind the million-

round-service life claim, see my review of the original Invictus in the May 2014 issue of *Shotgun Sports*.

I recently enjoyed a phone interview with the President of Caesar Guerini USA, Wes Lang. I asked Wes what was the origin of the Invictus III and its unique appearance. You see the Invictus III



*(Top) The patented DTS Action Control System allows the shooter to adjust the tension between the action and the forend iron.*

*(Bottom) Image of the Action Control System on the new Invictus III Sporting. Note the adjustment wheel with the white hash marks.*



is adorned with not only lavish engraving but with something he and I have always thought was very cool looking — fantasy-style creatures, such as gargoyles and dragons. Wes told me even from the time he was a young boy whenever he saw photos of guns featuring this type of engraving, they were the most impressive visually to him. I told him I felt the same way about guns engraved this way.

The Invictus III receiver is machined with beautiful scalloped fences and what I would describe as doubled or layered bolters that caress the sides and edges of the undersides of the receiver. This is a most elegant shape. It not only is visually striking, it appears more inherently sturdy. It is graceful to the eye and evokes a strong sense of elegance and security. I very much like the look of this shotgun.

The engraving is what will draw your eye the most. The gold figures of gargoyles and dragons truly “pop out” against the enhanced, darker background. This darker background is what provides the visual emphasis and enhances the engraving making it “pop”. Without it, you would not be so

drawn to the artistry of this receiver. The engraving was performed by the famous Bottega Di Giovanelli.

The underside of the receiver carries two figures, one of a gargoyle’s head, the other being a full-bodied gargoyle. The right and left sides of the Invictus III receiver have four gold figures of gargoyles and dragon heads. The Invictus III receiver is a hand-polished coin finish with Guerini’s proprietary Invisalloy™ protective surface treatment.

The Invictus III features a stock of Semi-Deluxe European walnut with a hand-rubbed oil finish. The color and grain are very attractive and complement the overall visual appeal of the gun. The forend is a rounded, sporting style with classic point-style checkering of 26 lines per inch on both buttstock and forend.

The design of the forend iron on the Invictus III is another new feature introduced at the 2018 S.H.O.T. Show. Called the DTS (Dynamic Tuning System) Action Control System, it incorporates a patented design that allows the stiffness of the action to the barrels to be adjusted by the shooter. For example, you know how most new guns are overly stiff to open and close when new, right out-of-the-box. The DTS Action Control System lets you adjust the forend iron stiffness with the

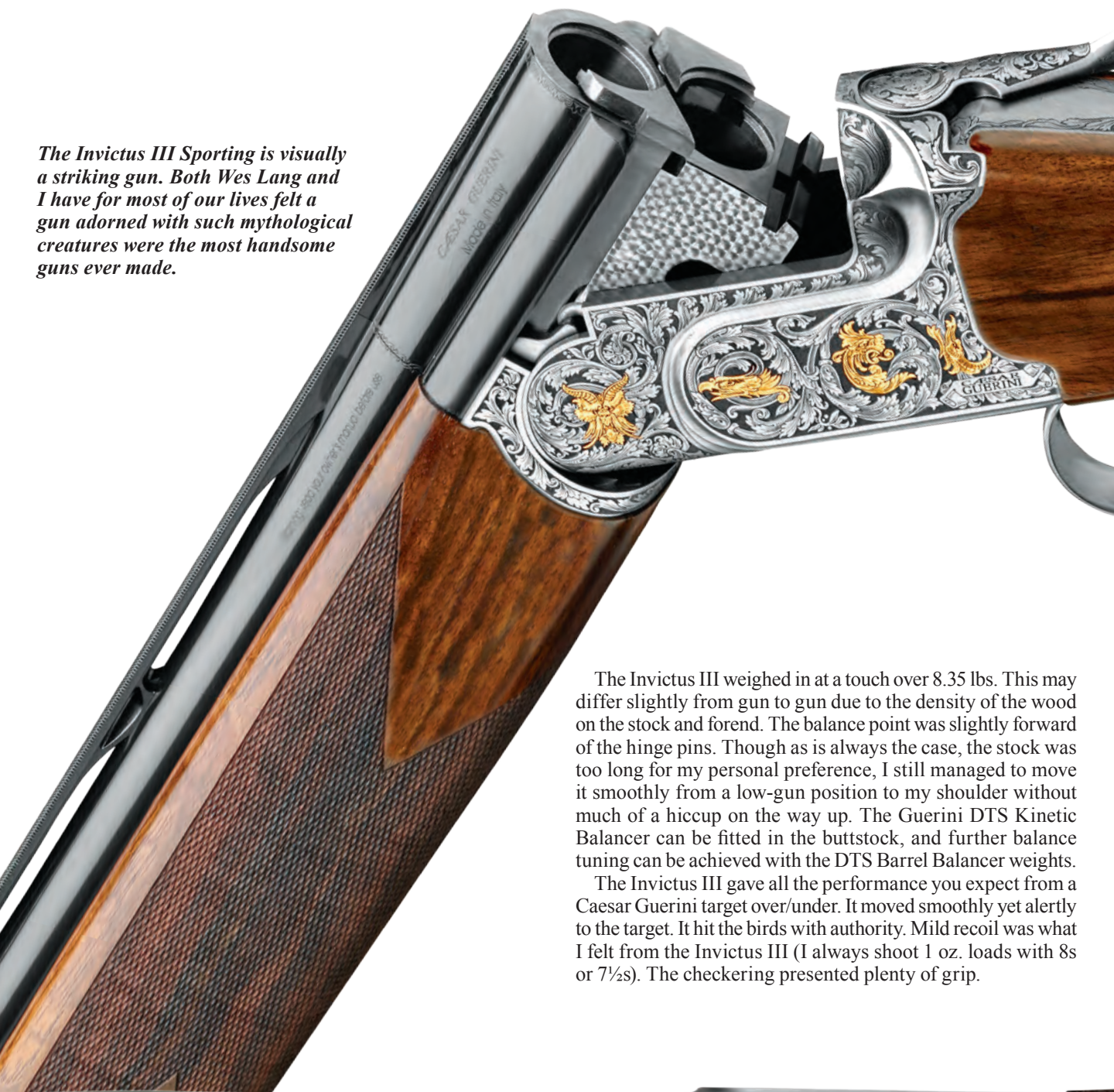
turn of a supplied Allen® wrench. Turning the adjustment screw clockwise results in an increase in tension on the forend lug, which makes the barrels stiffer to open and close. Turning the adjustment screw counter-clockwise makes the barrels easier to open. The adjustment screw is marked with hash marks, and each mark will have an audible click. Each click of the adjustment screw equals .025mm (.001") of movement of the forend insert. Total adjustment equals .6mm (.024"). The DTS Action Control System will save a lot of stress on the shooter’s arms and shoulders, especially in the first few hundred rounds through the new gun.

Some general information on the specifications of the Invictus III are: 12 gauge, 2¾" chambers, .735 chrome-lined bores, 5" Duo-Con forcing cones, 10mm to 6mm tapered top ventilated rib, white Bradley-style front bead and steel mid-bead and six Maxis Chokes. The triggers are set at the factory to approximately 4 lbs. and are adjustable for length of pull. Drop at Comb 1.5", Drop at Heel 2.25", LOP 14.75", Manual Safety with an Automatic Safety being an option. For the complete listing of the specifications and options for the Invictus III and all Caesar Guerini shotguns, please visit [gueriniusa.com](http://gueriniusa.com).



# CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS III SPORTING

*The Invictus III Sporting is visually a striking gun. Both Wes Lang and I have for most of our lives felt a gun adorned with such mythological creatures were the most handsome guns ever made.*



The Invictus III weighed in at a touch over 8.35 lbs. This may differ slightly from gun to gun due to the density of the wood on the stock and forend. The balance point was slightly forward of the hinge pins. Though as is always the case, the stock was too long for my personal preference, I still managed to move it smoothly from a low-gun position to my shoulder without much of a hiccup on the way up. The Guerini DTS Kinetic Balancer can be fitted in the buttstock, and further balance tuning can be achieved with the DTS Barrel Balancer weights.

The Invictus III gave all the performance you expect from a Caesar Guerini target over/under. It moved smoothly yet alertly to the target. It hit the birds with authority. Mild recoil was what I felt from the Invictus III (I always shoot 1 oz. loads with 8s or 7½s). The checkering presented plenty of grip.







The Maxis Chokes chosen for the testing duty were the Light Modified and the Modified, my all-around favorite choke combination with constrictions of .015 and .020, respectively. Targets taken at 20 to 35 yards were hit hard, leaving good amounts of smoke. The targets beyond 40 yards were corn-flaked with solid hits. There was only one target presentation beyond 45 yards, and those targets I hit at that range were broken well. In summary, the Invictus III took care of business on clay targets while making all the other shooters around want to come over to take a good look at this beautiful new Guerini over/under.

The Invictus III is available in a 30" or 32" barrel with or without an adjustable stock. Adjustable comb stocks will run \$385 extra and optional left-hand stocks will run \$240 extra.

Special Orders through the Caesar Guerini Custom Shop may make other gauges and barrel lengths available.

The Invictus III carries an MSRP of \$8,200. But be sure to check with your local Caesar Guerini dealer or better yet one of the Caesar Guerini dealers advertising in this issue and make your best deal. Invictus III and VII guns are expected to be arriving at authorized Caesar Guerini dealers in May of 2018. Wherever you purchase your Guerini over/under, be sure to tell them you read about it in *Shotgun Sports*.

If you have ever wanted a unique shotgun that will turn heads and perform equal to its striking looks, you have to look no further than your Caesar Guerini dealer for the new Invictus III. **SS**

*The stunning underside of the Invictus III Sporting. In this view you can see why the dark background is needed to help the foreground engraving "pop".*





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