



“Caesar Guerini demonstrate an understanding of ergonomics that some of the oldest target gunmakers can't match”

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

#### MAKER

Ceaser Guerini

#### MODEL

Ellipse Evo Ascent Trap

#### ACTION

Coil spring, single selective trigger

#### BORE SIZE

18.6mm

#### CHAMBER LENGTH

70mm

#### BARRELS

76cm

#### CHOKES

Eight hand detachable

#### RIB

Low ramped tapered

#### STOCK

Pistol grip, adjustable comb,

#### WEIGHT

3.904kg

#### PRICE

£5,195 inc VAT

#### DISTRIBUTOR

Anglo Italian Arms

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# THE ASCENDENCY

**Vic Harker** views the growth of Caesar Guerini in the UK with the new Ellipse Evo Ascent Trap model

**T**hat the Caesar Guerini shotgun, as a comparative newcomer to the UK and continues to maintain a healthy share of the clay-target gun market says much for the quality it offers. I have been looking at a Trap gun in the form of the Ellipse Evo Ascent. Quite a title, and its aspirational tone says it all. This Italian maker is ambitious and has set out to capture the market with a standard of manufacture and finish that is quite extraordinary.

That is not to say its mechanical design is ordinary, but it is quite straightforward, being under-bolted like a Browning, though the barrels pivot on trunnions rather than a cross-pin. The side-by-side hammers are cocked by way of a bolt

activated off the forend iron. The single trigger is non-mechanical and uses an inertia block system to cock the hammer for the second shot. All the components are carefully finished and regulated, and provide excellent trigger pulls.

The rounded action body is particularly attractive and takes an elliptical form, seldom, if ever, seen on target guns. The theme is carried over to the rest of the action body, including the top strap and the fences. The lavish engraving takes the form of a delicate scroll, which covers the entire action body and is overlaid with a spectacular leaf design. The only restraint demonstrated is in the gunmetal grey finish that makes the overall appearance all the more attractive.

## The stock

Handsome is as handsome does, however, and so what of the all-important stock configuration? In this area, Caesar Guerini demonstrates an understanding of ergonomics that even some of the longest established target gunmakers can't match. This would suggest, cosmetics aside, that the company has either a knowledgeable shooter working for them, or advisers outside the company who really know their stuff.

In terms of shape and dimensions, the Ascent's stock is right up there with the best. The grip has a radius tight enough to provide control without cramping the hand or positioning the elbow at an unnatural angle. This, in part, is also due to the excellent adjustable trigger blade.







The comb, which can be altered for height and cast, has an excellent profile that offers good support at the face without being too full. Just as importantly, the wide parameters it provides for height at comb, high or low, are way beyond the vast majority of shooters requirements, but they are there if required. Drop-at-heel cannot be adjusted but is a sensible 45mm, and length-of-pull with the trigger blade in a central position is 3.8cm.

The stock's component parts are of excellent quality, including the recoil pad that is exceptional in shape and the comfort it provides. The forend wood incorporates an Anson rod fastening and complements the shape of the stock with good ergonomics and definition in terms of shape. The quality of the wood employed is well figured and close grained, and while I would not like to guess its origins, it is attractive.

## Barrels

Thankfully, this Trap gun's barrels are conventionally bored to 18.6mm and will digest any kind of cartridge, including fibre wads, and they deliver well distributed and effective patterns. Externally, the tubes are beautifully struck-off and finished with a convincingly deep black.

As is the norm with many modern Trap guns, the Caesar Guerini comes with a set of hand-detachable chokes and there is much to be said for this facility.

There is a choice of no less than eight constrictions, and while some may not be suitable for Trap shooting, the possibility of experimentation this provides is endless. Modern ribs can be another area for experiment, in terms of adjustment for point-of-impact, though in this case the rib was not adjustable. Instead, it was a sound design featuring a low ramp about 8mm at its highest and sloping down to the muzzle ends at 5mm. Tapering 10mm to 7mm, it features a narrow centre channel with a non-reflective surface at each side of it.

## Shooting impressions

With an all up weight of 3.904kg, this Trap gun has some real heft between the hands and is a near-perfect example of good

weight distribution for a gun of this type. Sufficiently fast handling to deal with the quickest kind of clay target, at the same time it retains a reassuring feel of stability.

Many Trap guns with relatively short barrels can be a little too quick off the mark for DTL targets. Not so here, but on much faster Ball Trap clays I found the Ellipse equally effective. The trigger mechanism had obviously been carefully regulated and pulls were exceptionally crisp without a hint of drag.

The Caesar Guerini Ellipse is a beautiful gun if you can afford it, but what impresses me most about this maker is that plainer models incorporate the same specifications in terms of weight and balance at a much more competitive price. ●

