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GUN TEST
GUERINI
**INVICTUS V
SPORTING**



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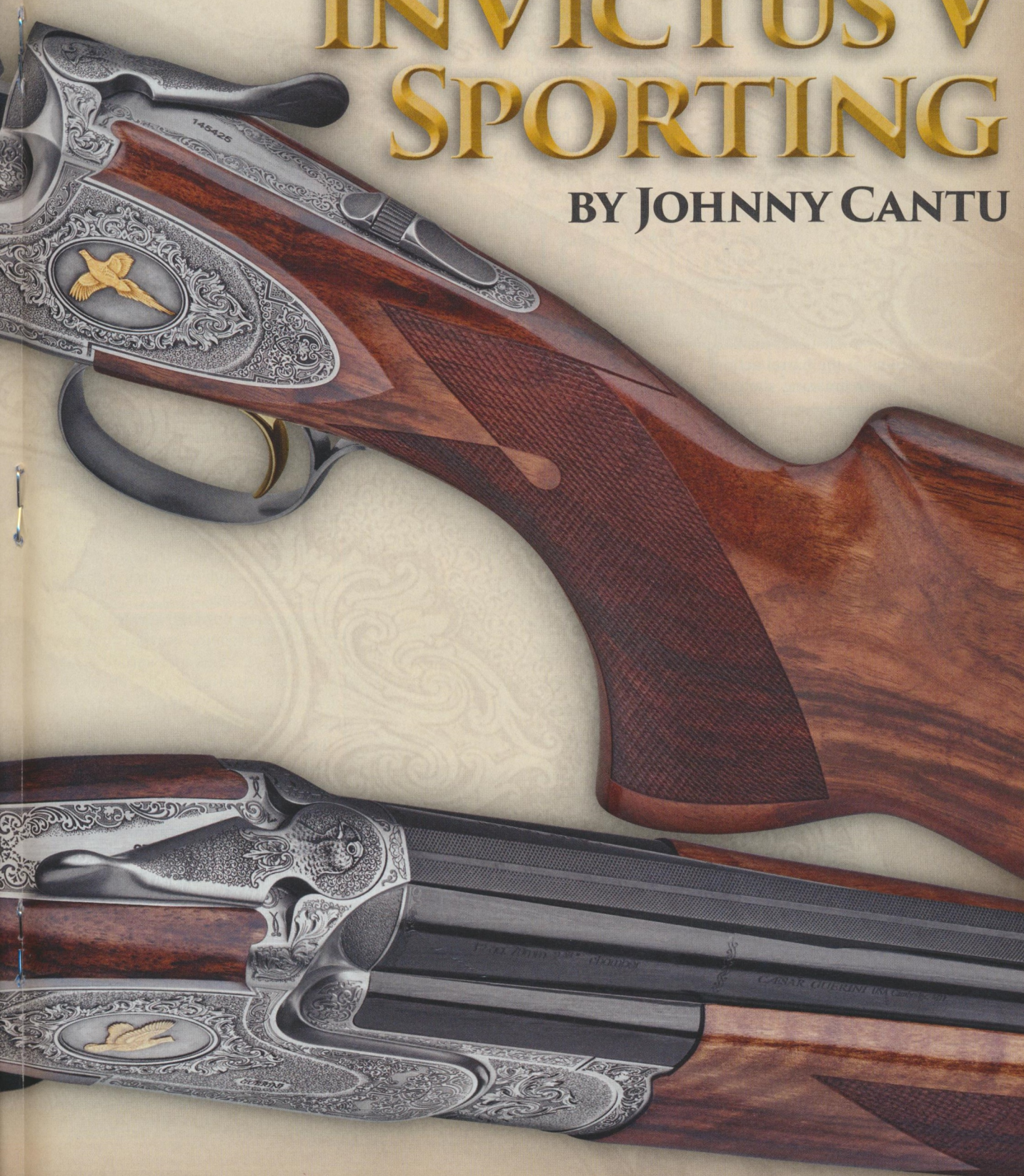
*Photos courtesy
Caesar Guerini USA*

*In 2014 Caesar Guerini stunned the
shotgunning world with their claim of
a service life of 1,000,000 rounds with the
original Invictus Sporting. Now with the new
Invictus V Sporting, they build a gun capable of
1,000,000 rounds, combined with ultimate beauty as well.*

GUN TEST

NEW CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS V SPORTING

BY JOHNNY CANTU



CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS V SPORTING

In the May 2014 issue of *Shotgun Sports*, I reviewed the Caesar Guerini Invictus Sporting over/under competition clay target shotgun. The Invictus was designed well within the sense of style, beauty and performance for which Caesar Guerini shotguns are known. However, the makers of the Invictus stunned the shotgun world when they made claim to a lifespan of 1,000,000 rounds!

Here is where the Invictus shows it's a whole new breed of cat. It makes use of specially designed and replaceable components within the action that, when the time comes for replacing, not only tightens the gun back up (put back "on face") but genuinely replenishes the factory specifications of the barrel/action relationship. This is amazing shotgun engineering.

Most of you have noticed the photos included in my reviews of the different Guerini guns show they are not only performance-oriented, but also strikingly attractive.

The full right-side profile of the Guerini Invictus V Sporting. Note the full standard buttstock. Custom dimensions as well as adjustable comb hardware are available for the Invictus V Sporting.

The engraving, graceful sculpted lines and overall visual appeal of the Caesar Guerini shotguns are top-drawer quality. While the original Invictus was relatively Spartan compared to its siblings, Guerini now gives the Invictus V a stunning boost in the art department. The new Invictus V Sporting, while still maintaining the premise of extreme long-lived service, makes its presence known with extraordinary visual appeal as well as some internal improvements.

I expected to see a lovely piece of work, as I had seen the ads we were running for the Invictus V. But to view the gun in hand, in person, was quite a sensation. As the advertisement states, "The result is a stunning example of contemporary Italian Ornato-style engraving with deep relief game scenes."

My test sample of the new Invictus V Sporting was a demo previously sent to other writers. I was forewarned it may have some handling marks. The marks I found were almost unnoticeable. The gun is a gorgeous piece of craftsmanship.

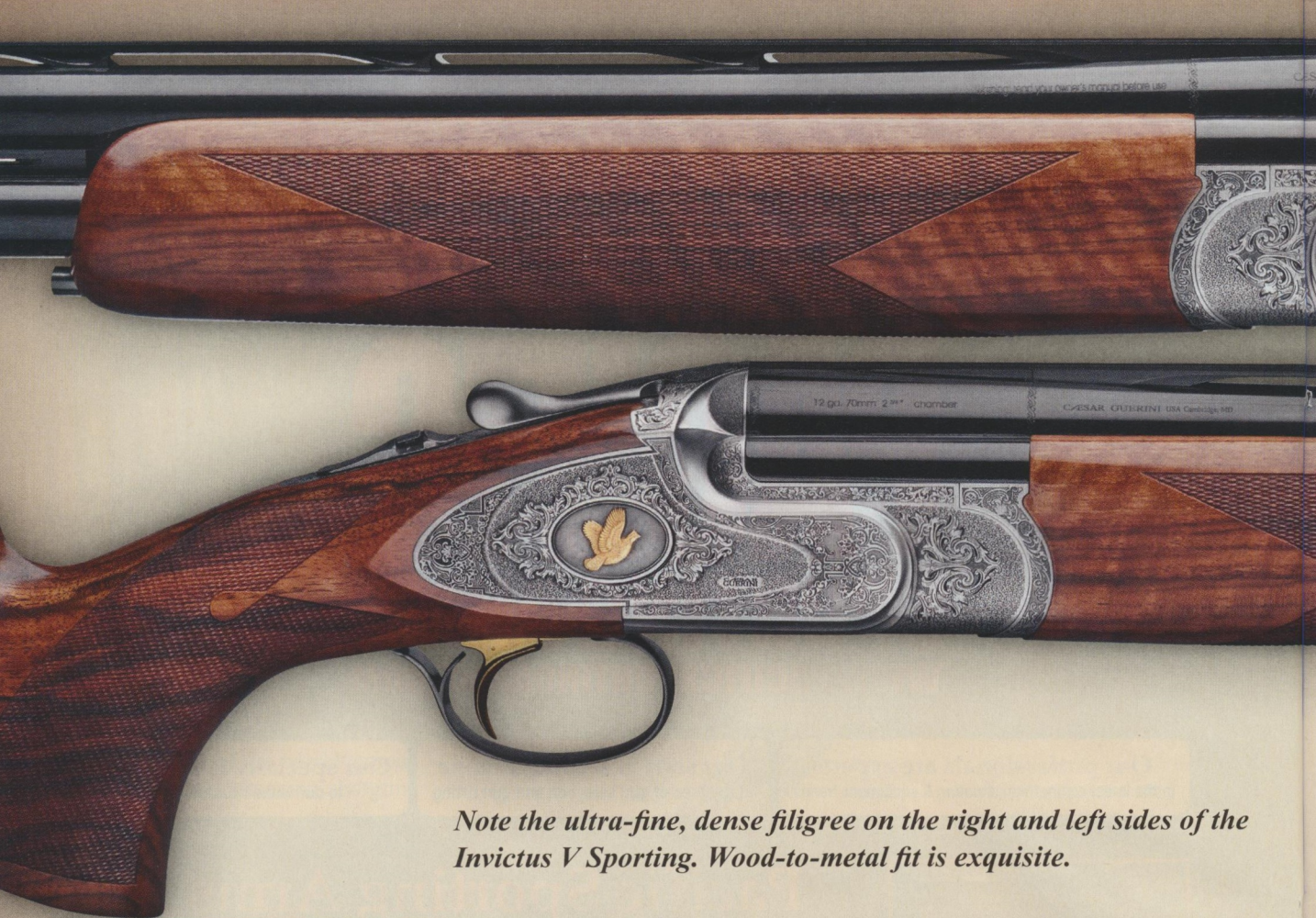
The configuration of my test sample was a 32" Sporting, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " chambers, 5" DuoCon forcing cones, .735 chrome-lined bores, 10mm to 8mm tapered flat rib, ventilated-rib barrels, 4mm white, Bradley-style bead at the muzzle with a 2mm steel mid-bead. A full-length center groove in the top rib provides fast centering of the eye particularly helpful when you are mounting to the shoulder from a low-gun position. I have mentioned many times before, this is my favorite style of top rib. The top rib is also cross-hatched to reduce glare if you happen to be shooting on a sunny day.

Six Maxis Chokes came with the Invictus V Sporting. One Cylinder (+.001 over @ .736), one Skeet (.005 @ .730), two Improved Cylinder (.008 @ .727),

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Take a moment and move ahead in this issue to take a look at the photos of the new Invictus V Sporting. The action now incorporates graceful sideplates that are wonderfully engraved and gold accented with images of a game bird in flight on either side. The highly intricate, full-coverage engraving uses four different engraving techniques as well as hours of painstaking hand engraving. The intricate detail is truly astounding. You will find it hard to take your eyes off the gun while you explore every tiny nuance cut by masterful hands into the metal surfaces. When I received the sample of the Invictus V Sporting,





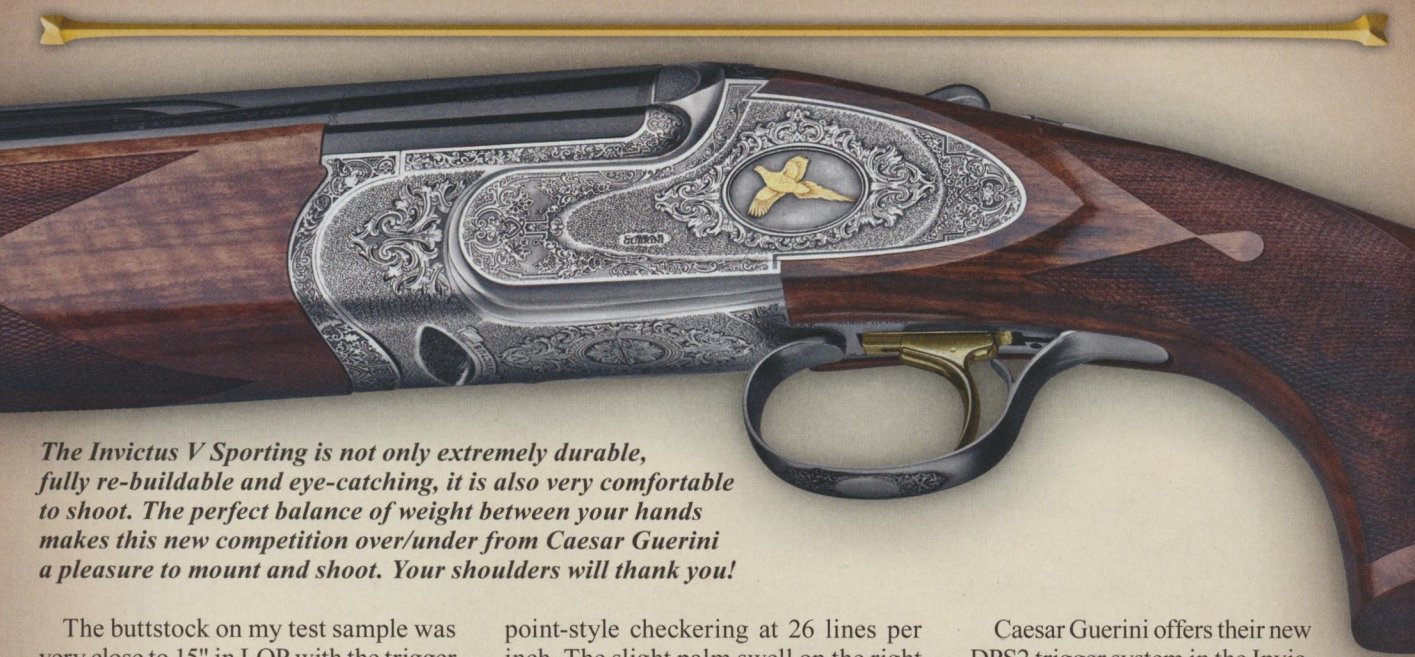
Note the ultra-fine, dense filigree on the right and left sides of the Invictus V Sporting. Wood-to-metal fit is exquisite.



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one Light Modified (.014 @ .721) and one Modified (.725 @ .710). Guerini provides a rather novel choke wrench. The Maxis Chokes do not have the typical notches in the muzzle edge. They have channels cut into the extended knurled sections

that protrude beyond the muzzle when inserted. This allows the insertion and removal of the chokes to be performed either by hand or with the use of their choke wrench. At first glance, the wrench appears to have been designed to remove empty hulls out of the chambers of the

gun. But once you see how it really works, you will say to yourself, "Now that is very smart." The wrench doubles as a thread cleaner as well. All chokes produced patterns commensurate to their constriction, and all were quite effective on targets at all ranges and presentations.



The Invictus V Sporting is not only extremely durable, fully re-buildable and eye-catching, it is also very comfortable to shoot. The perfect balance of weight between your hands makes this new competition over/under from Caesar Guerini a pleasure to mount and shoot. Your shoulders will thank you!

The buttstock on my test sample was very close to 15" in LOP with the trigger blade adjusted to its rear-most position within the trigger guard. Cast at heel was 1/16"; cast at toe, 1/8". Drop at comb (face) was 1/4" and at heel, 2 1/4". There was 5 degrees of positive-pitch angle. A medium soft, black rubber recoil pad was mounted on the buttstock. The round forend and butt are of a hand-rubbed, oil-finished European walnut with a

point-style checkering at 26 lines per inch. The slight palm swell on the right side of the somewhat slender pistol grip felt good in my hand and gave the sensation of more control of the rear of the gun. Like the original Invictus, the V comes to you with a standard full stock, no adjustable comb hardware installed. However, an adjustable comb stock can be ordered as can your custom dimensions.

Caesar Guerini offers their new DPS2 trigger system in the Invictus V Sporting. This trigger group is designed to provide improved weight, speed, take-up and crispness unlike anything you have felt before. It, like most competition target shotguns these days, is adjustable within the trigger guard to a range of approximately 11mm. It is a single-selective system with a non-
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automatic safety. The typical mode of barrel selection is the toggle bar you move with your thumb to pre-select either the top or bottom barrel to fire first. My trigger pull scale indicated the bottom barrel sear broke at 3 pounds, 6 ounces and the top barrel sear broke at 3 pounds, 9 ounces.

Balance point of the 32" Invictus V with two Maxis Chokes installed was only slightly forward of the hinge pin. The wonderful balance of the Invictus V makes it feel as if it weighs less than it

The wonderful balance of the Invictus V makes it feel as if it weighs less than it really does, but because the mass is there, felt recoil is lessened to a noticeable degree.

really does, but because the mass is there, felt recoil is lessened to a noticeable degree. The Invictus V is a comfortable gun to shoot. By the way, the test sample I received weighed in at just a bit over 8 lbs. but delivered recoil levels as if it weighed more.

As I stated in my review of the original Invictus, the receiver is where the unrivaled durability and re-buildability, the basic premise of the Invictus series, all take place. The Invictus Cam and Block are the major elements that bring all this

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together. The cams provide the hinging of the barrel upon the receiver as well as the re-facing of the breech to the receiver, if and when that becomes necessary. The Invictus Block, when the gun is closed at battery, completes the lockup with the recoil lug. This relationship guarantees the strength of the marriage of barrel to receiver. The Invictus Block and Cam are replaceable with larger sizes to properly restore barrel/receiver relationship. There is an added benefit not often recognized when you maintain such a solid lockup of components — less felt recoil. This occurs on account of there being

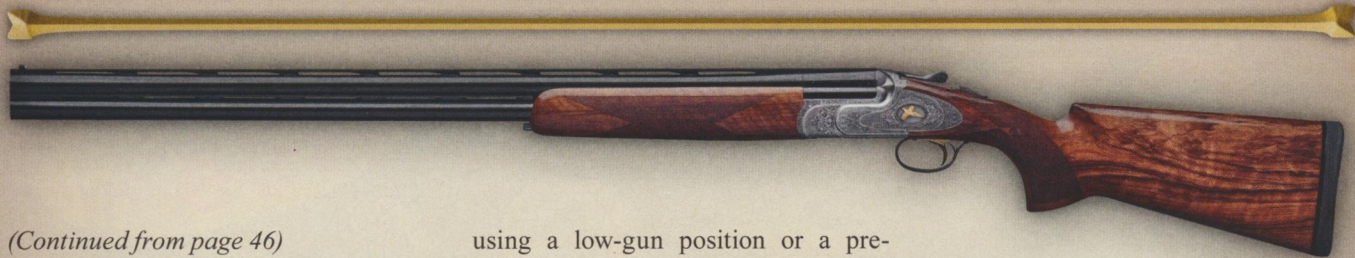
The Invictus Block and Cam are replaceable with larger sizes to properly restore barrel/receiver relationship.

less component slap when recoil stresses travel through the gun under fire. That, in my mind, is always a good thing.

My field testing of the new Invictus V Sporting included sporting clays targets and skeet targets. My first stop was at the skeet field where a local high school

coach was putting his boys through some practice rounds. I asked if I could join their squad. The coach said, "Come right on up." I began with some routine skeet shots from both low-gun positions and pre-mounted positions. The longish LOP of the buttstock forced me to move my front hand more to the rear on the forend so as to clear my chest more completely. This is a quick fix I learned from the great Grant Illseng many years ago. When I got to Station 3, where I would normally take a single High House target and then a single Low House, I shot a pair of Doubles. The first pair was typical, shooting

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the High House target first. The second pair was taking the Low House first and catching the falling out and away High House target on the second shot. Quite a good and fun pair if you've never tried it.

The deliberate nature of the Invictus V Sporting on single targets was gratifying and gives you the sense the gun never allows you to lose that feeling of "there's nothing the target can do that will take it out of my comfort zone". Meaning, I can crush it regardless of what gyrations or maneuvers it goes through. However, when there are pairs in the air, the Invictus V is in a league by itself. The controlled moves to the first and second birds with this gun will virtually cause you to have an out-of-body experience. It's that good!

Even with 1 1/8-ounce trap loads, the kick was not punishing. The IC and Light Modified Maxis Chokes, teamed with 8s or 7½s, thoroughly abused the targets. I frequently would shoot the Invictus V

using a low-gun position or a pre-mounted position. There is an interesting phenomena that occurs when you move onto a target from a low-gun position. The act of turning while you're making the mount seems to dilute the effects of recoil to a small degree, at least that's the way it feels to me. I can tell the difference in the punch I receive when I shoot from a pre-mounted position, like in American skeet, versus a low-gun position. It's a gentler shove instead of a kick.

The longer shots on the sporting clays course, such as the crossers and tower shots, were handled easily with the aid of the 32" barrels. All the rest of the targets I took with the Invictus V were simple and fun. This gun not only allows you to be very proud to take it out of the gun case, it allows you to be proud of your scores. Isn't that what buying a quality shotgun is REALLY all about?

Had I wished for (or if you prefer) more weight in your target-breaking machine,

Guerini offers their DTS (Dynamic Tuning System) barrel weights or Stock Balancer device to fine-tune your Caesar Guerini's balance and weight.

MSRP for either the 30" or 32" version on the Invictus V Sporting runs \$8,795. Call on your local Caesar Guerini dealer or the ones in this magazine who feature Caesar Guerini guns and make your best deal. Be sure to mention you saw their ad in *Shotgun Sports*.

The Caesar Guerini Invictus V Sporting gives you unparalleled durability and performance, joined with graceful lines and extreme eye-pleasing engraving. If you are in the market for a new clay-target shotgun with scads of curb appeal, as well as comfort, you owe it to yourself to check this one out.

If you never have before, you WILL experience love at first sight with the new Caesar Guerini Invictus V Sporting! **SS**