

A LOOK AT THE CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS IX

FUNCTIONAL ART SAYS MATTHEW GAY

Having seen advertisements for this model previously and being eager to put eyes on it, it was hard to bother observing the ancillary items that come with this model. However, a review would not be complete without the nuts

and bolts so off we go. A plastic fitted hard case is supplied with this model, complete with velvet stock and barrel sleeves, a choke case, stock and trigger wrench and a friction choke wrench.

accentuates the extravagant engraving on this gun. The fine points of the Invictus series of sporting guns from Caesar Guerini are well known, and we'll lay them out here again as well, but the beauty of this particular model is a major focus of this review. Its truly a masterpiece and below you'll see the pictorial evidence to support such a claim.

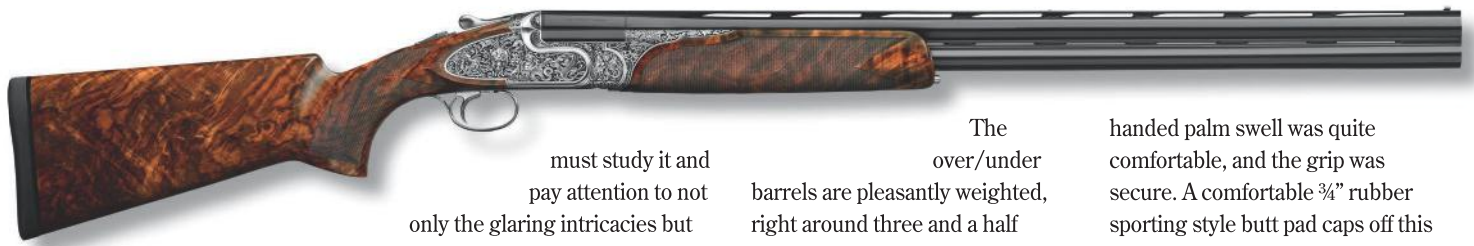
factory specs. On the receiver side of things, the Invictus system inverts the traditional approach to lock-up in the bottom of the receiver. As opposed to lugs from the bottom of the monoblock engaging cut-out recesses in the bottom of the receiver, the Invictus system utilizes the Invictus block. This block is mounted to the floor of the receiver and instead engages with the

monoblock to ensure positive locking and correct alignment of the barrels to the receiver. The great thing is, if the barrels start to come "off face", this part can be

The Receiver

The patented Invictus system is quite revolutionary, in that it has created a system by which the primary wear-points that render a shotgun off-face and sometimes unserviceable, can be replaced in order to restore the barrel mating with the receiver, to





replaced with a new Invictus block by removing only two screws. This is a much simpler re-build than many designs which require delicate welding and careful re-fitting in order to correct alignment issues.

must study it and pay attention to not only the glaring intricacies but also the subtle features. This receiver is absolutely gorgeous with faux side-plates which offer a large canvas for the engraver. The deep relief engraving is hand polished and protected with an Invisalloy™ finish. This receiver features so many beautiful themes, the only way to do it justice is to let the pictures tell the story.

The Barrels

The barrels are finished in a rich blue and

The over/under barrels are pleasantly weighted, right around three and a half pounds, giving the shotgun great balance. The top rib sports a white Bradley style front bead and a silver mid bead. Six competition MAXIS chokes are provided in the appropriate constrictions to conquer any sporting course.

The aesthetic features on this model continue to impress the eye. The side of the monoblock is etched in a manner which resembles a twist Damascus pattern. When the gun is open, this addition contrasts with the exacting engraving displayed on the receiver, giving it an even more impressive look.

The Stock

The receiver is a very hard act to follow but the walnut on this model does a fine job of rising to the occasion. Highly

handed palm swell was quite comfortable, and the grip was secure. A comfortable ¾" rubber sporting style butt pad caps off this beautiful piece of furniture. Some obligatory gun mounts demonstrated that the rounded pad was well suited for the low gun shooters, including those stock draggers.

The rounded forearm is yet another component of this masterpiece the engravers selected as a canvas to display their work. The forearm irons on this model serve than more than the wear and connection points to the barrel and receiver. The ears are prominent and bear complete engraved coverage to accent and provide contrast to the barrels above and the finely figured and precisely checkered wood below. The beautifully executed inletting on the bottom of this model's forearm displays a diamond, fashioned out of a material akin to the buffalo horn sometimes seen on classic shotgun stocks, with a centered silver droplet inlet. As with the butt stock, wood to metal fit is perfect and the forearm locks securely into place with an Anson style button lock.

Shooting the Invictus IX

To be honest, I enjoyed studying this model as much as I enjoyed

This system does not employ the typical trunnions seen in many Italian designs. With the Invictus, recesses are cut into the ears of the receiver and accept the Invictus Cams, which are also replaceable and mounted to the side of the monoblock. With the removal of two Torx screws and the replacement of the cams, the monoblock can be returned to factory specs in a hurry, and at an extremely moderate cost. The trigger on the Invictus is extremely crisp and adjustable allowing it to be tuned for precise control of overtravel, take-up and length of pull. Both barrels on this model broke crisply at just a smidge under three pounds with no creep at all.

In order to appreciate the engraving on this receiver, one

polished to an excellent shine. The top rib is textured to reduce glare and tapers from 10mm to 8mm, sitting 6mm high. In addition to the top rib, the mid-rib assists with the rapid removal of heat.

The chrome lined .735 bore barrels feature the DuoCon system. The five-inch dual conical forcing cones reduce felt recoil and make for improved patterns.

figured with a hand rubbed oil finish and adorned with well cut checkering at 26 lines per inch, the right

SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL:	CAESAR GUERINI INVICTUS IX SPORTER
GAUGE:	12 GAUGE
BARRELS:	32"
LENGTH OF PULL:	14.75"
DROP AT COMB:	1.5"
DROP AT HEEL:	2.25"
CAST AT HEEL:	0.125"
CAST AT TOE:	0.25"
PITCH:	5°
GRIP LENGTH:	4" AT CENTER POSITION (ADJUSTABLE)
WEIGHT:	8 LBS 3 OZ
CHOKES:	6 - MAXIS COMPETITION CHOKES (CYL, SK, 2 IC, LM AND M)
WARRANTY:	5 YEARS
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	\$19,999
	\$270 LEFT HAND STOCK OPTION
	\$425 ADJUSTABLE COMB OPTION

shooting it. The balance was spot on and the triggers were exceptional. Recoil with 1 1/8 ounce 1200 feet per second ammo was easily manageable. The action, ejectors and controls operated flawlessly without fail and the action locked up as tight as a vault.

Just as pleasurable were the looks on the range this shotgun elicited. It was like carrying around a piece of art that everyone around wanted to look at. With each additional moment viewing the intricacies of the adorned receiver, another detail was revealed. This shotgun truly embodies the

concept of pride in ownership. Not only because of the absolute beauty it exudes, but also as a result of superior innovation, breeding reliability, functionality and an endurance that likely matches its namesake; "Invictus," which means, "unconquerable, unsubdued and invincible."

The Invictus IX is only available at their Elite Dealers. For information on this model and to locate an Elite Dealer near you visit the Invictus IX Page at gueriniusa.com/shotguns/invictus-ix-sporting ■

CAESAR GUERINI



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