

# WEATHERBY ORION D'ITALIA SC

A MINI GUN TEST BY  
**TOM CERETTO**

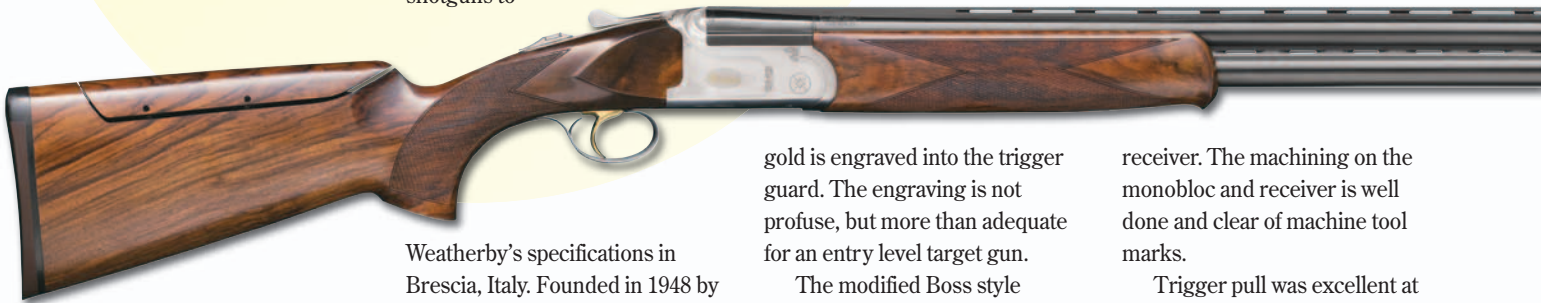
When you heard the name Roy Weatherby in the past it usually conjured up thoughts of big game hunting, high performance rifles and African safaris. But today it means more than that, it means all types of shotguns – over and unders, side-by-sides and even autoloaders too.

Fausti manufactures Weatherby target and field over and under and side-by-side shotguns to

and on the top of the receiver. The recoil ball for the top barrel, top strap and trigger guard are all nicely decorated too. The Weatherby logo is quite prominently engraved inside an engraved scallop on each side of the plated and polished receiver with the Weatherby name done in gold script. Two gold sporting clays targets embellish the bottom of the receiver and a script 'W' in

and 1.570 inches wide. Two very substantial looking rectangular shaped cocking rods run down the center of the receiver floor and cock the hammers when the action is opened after discharge.

Both sides of the conventionally done monobloc are attractively machine turned. There are semi oval areas machined into each side of the monobloc that engage recoil blocks in the



Weatherby's specifications in Brescia, Italy. Founded in 1948 by Stefano Fausti, his daughters Elena, Giovanna and Barbara now manage the company. All three of Fausti's daughters were raised in the firearms business and all three have degrees in accounting. The Fausti sisters know the firearms business inside and out.

## ORION D'ITALIA

The Weatherby Orion D'Italia SC is a very attractive shotgun with rose and scroll engraving on the receiver borders, receiver bottom

gold is engraved into the trigger guard. The engraving is not profuse, but more than adequate for an entry level target gun.

The modified Boss style receiver – Weatherby calls it a patented four lock – is CNC machined out of a solid block of steel alloy. The barrels pivot on stub pins located on either side of the receiver. Two short chopper lumps are engaged by a full width bolt to achieve lock up – a tried and true system used by many shotgun manufacturers. The chopper lumps nestle into two shallow recesses machined into the bottom of the receiver. The receiver is 2.575 inches deep (quite shallow for chopper lump style of action)

receiver. The machining on the monobloc and receiver is well done and clear of machine tool marks.

Trigger pull was excellent at 3 1/4 pounds for both barrels with very little slack. The second barrel is set with a recoil block. The well checkered manual safety hangs from the top strap and houses the barrel selector. Both the safety and barrel selector detents hold firmly when safety position and barrel selection are made.

The 30 inch barrels on my demo sported a flat ventilated 10mm non-tapered top rib and a vented center rib. Weatherby also offers 28 and 32 inch barrels for the Orion D'Italia SC. The front sight is

a fiber optic red dot and the center bead is brass. Both barrels have 26 ports in each side of the barrels, more than adequate to reduce muzzle flip. The barrels are deep blued and highly polished and are ripple free from breech to muzzle.

The Orion D'Italia SC comes with five chokes: cylinder, skeet, SC #1, SC #2 and modified. They are flush and measured 1 1/2 inches in length. The forcing cones are long and more than adequate to reduce shot deformation. Chokes are also available from after market suppliers.

### ADJUSTABLE COMB

I like it when an entry-level target gun comes standard with an adjustable comb. On the D'Italia it can be adjusted for drop, cast off or cast on. The oil finished stock on my demo was well filled and showed some nice grain and contrast, better than average for a entry level target gun.



The recoil pad has a hard insert at the heel for ease of mounting. Length of pull measured 14 5/8 inches. Drop at comb in the lowest position measured 1 1/2 inches and drop at heel measured 2 1/4 inches.

Checking on the stock and fore-end is well done with no run-offs visible. The checkering is sharp and offered a firm grip with and without gloves. I liked the grip quite well, it seemed just right. The radius is tight enough for sporting clays or skeet, but not as tight as some competition trap guns.

The Deely and Edge improved fore-end is semi Schnabel and quite attractively done. It is wide enough to fill the hand nicely and narrow enough not to seem bulky.



The fore-end iron is highly polished and nicely engraved with rose and scroll engraving. The fore-end fits the barrel snugly and there was not a bit of movement fore and aft or side-to-side when snapped in place. Wood to metal fit is above average. The wood stood proud of the receiver and fore-end iron. This allows for a refinish down the road if necessary.

The D'Italia is very slightly nose heavy when balanced at the trunions with 30 inch barrels. I would imagine it would be very close to the same with 32 inch barrels, which most shooters probably would prefer. Not being a Master class shooter, I always have others shoot my demo target guns to get their reactions to them. I liked the way the D'Italia handled at sporting clays and 5-Stand – as did others who shot it. Transition from target to target, on report and true pair, was done with ease.

At \$2,599 suggested retail, I think the Weatherby Orion D'Italia is very fairly priced. I enjoyed shooting it and think it would make a fine sporting clays shotgun for most competitive shooters. ■

### ORION D'ITALIA SC O/U SPECIFICATIONS

**MANUFACTURER:** FAUSTI STEFANO BRESCIA, ITALY  
**IMPORTER:** WEATHERBY INC.  
 1605 COMMERCE WAY  
 PASO ROBLES, CA 93446  
 800-227-2016  
 www.weatherby.com

#### ORION D'ITALIA SC O/U

**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** \$2,599.00  
**ACTION:** CNC MACHINED BOXLOCK, PATENTED FOUR-LOCK  
**RECEIVER DEPTH:** 2.575"  
**RECEIVER WIDTH:** 1.570"  
**SAFETY:** MANUAL  
**GUN WEIGHT:** 8.25 POUNDS  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 47 7/16" W/30" BARRELS  
**LENGTH OF PULL:** 14 5/8"  
**DROP AT COMB:** 1 1/2" ADJUSTABLE  
**DROP AT HEEL:** 2 1/4"  
**STOCK & FORE-END:** WALNUT SCHNABEL  
**STOCK FINISH:** HAND RUBBED OIL  
**BARRELS:** 30" TESTED, 28" & 32" AVAILABLE  
**FRONT SIGHT:** FIBER OPTIC RED  
**CENTER BEAD:** BRASS  
**CHAMBERS:** 3"  
**BORE:** 0.721"/0.721"  
**CHOKES:** FIVE FLUSH – SKEET, IC, SC#1, SC#2 and MODIFIED  
**CHOKE LENGTH:** 1 1/2 INCHES  
**FORCING CONE:** LONG EXTENDED  
**TOP RIB:** 10mm VENTED  
**CENTER RIB:** VENTED  
**TRIGGER:** SELECTIVE NON ADJUSTABLE  
**TRIGGER PULL:** TOP 3.25 LBS. BOTTOM 3.25 LBS.