



TRYTHIS

RIZZINI'S **BR-320**

STEVE FISCHER INVITES SHOOTERS AT PORT OF THE ISLANDS TO PUT THIS SPORTER THROUGH ITS PACES



TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE: SALLY CONRAD, PETER KALLIE, GARY MESNIK AND ROBERT DE LELLI

When it comes to shotguns, starting from basic field guns to high volume target models, right up to works of art with price tags that will dent even the deepest pockets, the Italian's definitely live on a large corner of that market.

The Val Trompia region of Italy is almost legend when it comes to firearms manufacturing and the Battista Rizzini family have been producing some of the finest for over 40 years.

I always look forward to putting

a test gun through its paces, and especially enjoy the inevitable trip to the range for some real hands on touchie-feelie, and a chance to invite a few unsuspecting volunteers to give me their impression of the gun on test.



ON TEST

Port of the Islands is a shooting club located about 75 miles due West from Miami, Florida and about 30 minutes East of Naples – straight across the ‘Sea of Grass’, better known as the Everglades wetlands, from my Miami home. The club is quickly becoming a hot spot as it offers trap, skeet and sporting clays as well as a rifle and pistol range. In the winter months, from about November to April, the ‘snowbirds’ invade South Florida and gravitate to the beautiful vacation opportunities of Naples, Fort Myers and the upscale Marco island locales of the area.

The club gave me and others the opportunity to test the Rizzini BR-320 on their sporting course as well as on the trap and skeet fields.

“Anybody want to shoot this new Rizzini over and under?” The response was immediate. Ladies first – Sally Conrad stepped forward. Being a leftie presented no problem as she spanked the first target out of the wobble trap with ease. After a few more shots Sally commented that she very much liked the feel and weight of the gun, and found the recoil to be well within her tolerance level.

Peter Kallie, an accomplished shooter who usually shoots a Beretta 390 was next. The wobble trap targets, although quite fast and tricky, were no contest for this South African import. He was able to take the targets with this stack barrel just about as fast as he could with his auto loader.

Robert De Lilli was also impressed. Another local shooter, Gary Mesnick, stepped to the line and literally fell in love with the BR-320. He tried it once and then a few minutes later asked if he could shoot it again. After the third time, he liked it enough to order one and probably would have bought the



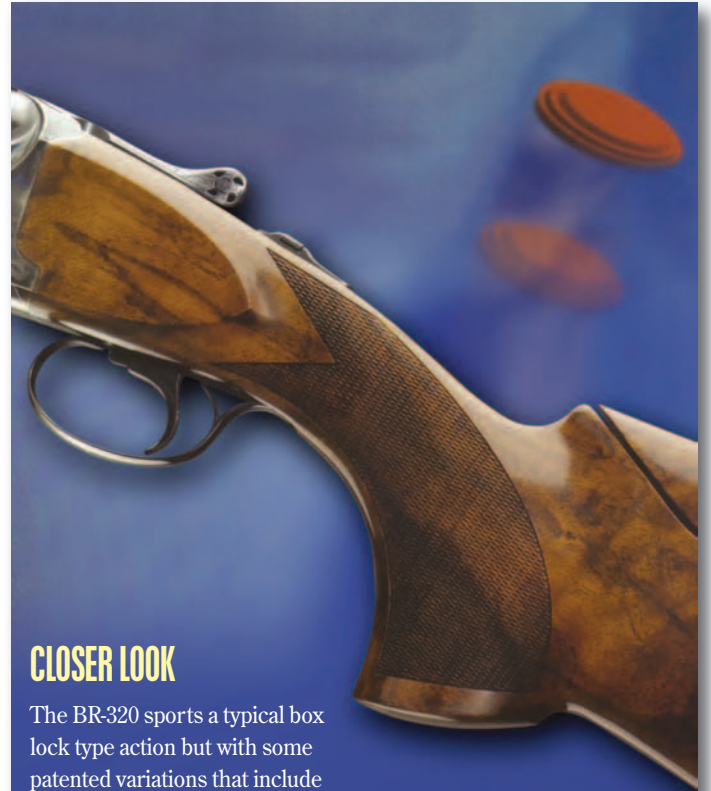
THE BR-320 ATTRACTED NOT A SINGLE NEGATIVE COMMENT FROM THOSE THAT TRIED THE GUN.

demo gun had it been available for sale! Several more shooters tried the gun out and I found it quite notable that there was not a single negative comment.

MY TURN

Now it was my turn on the sporting course. Since I like to see the clays disintegrate with a solid hit, I selected a Modified choke for the belly barrel and an Improved Mod for the top. It turned out to be over-kill. The first station featured an incomer, high and showing all belly, with a report outgoing target from my right, going away fast with a slight hook to the right. The incomer peaked at about 30 yards directly in front and 28 gms of #8 shot through the Modified barrel satisfyingly ink-balled the target. Ditto on the report target. Hmmm, I thought, not bad.

Several stations later I was more than satisfied with both mine and the guns performance. I spent a few minutes making notes and mentally reviewing the experience and noted that at the advertised weight of 8.2 pounds, the gun was quite nimble yet not so light as to become whippy at the barrel end. It moved nicely and the felt recoil was quite acceptable. Ejection of the spent shells was positive and the action to barrel fit was positive without being overly stiff, or too loose.



CLOSER LOOK

The BR-320 sports a typical box lock type action but with some patented variations that include a novel safety system that will not allow the gun to fire unless the action is closed completely. The fore-arm iron is self adjusting for wear, and the trigger mechanism is adjustable for both travel and pull weight. Barrel lengths are available in 28, 30 and 32 inch increments and are standard with lengthened forcing cones. It was also nice to see that this model can be had with fixed chokes as well as the screw-in type so popular in the U.S. The receiver can be had in either a

blued or color case hardened finish, and there are several options for stocks including adjustable combs and left handed versions. The BR-320 comes as a sporting package in 12 bore with a nice looking and durable and lockable hard case, 5 screw chokes and the necessary accessories.

A closer look showed a few surprises that one would expect to find on guns in a higher price





bracket. Most noticeable was the quality of the wood. It sported a nicely figured walnut stock and fore-end with wood to metal fit spot on. A comfortable palm swell accompanied the stock on the starboard side for the righties, and the cast was pretty much neutral enough for a leftie like me to be able to shoot without too much adjustment.

The checkering was well executed with crisp and well pointed diamonds – obviously done by laser as it was almost perfect. Another notable feature was the excellent positioning of the release latch for the forearm – located not in the center like most O/U's, but out on the front end of the forearm. The bluing was high luster style on the receiver with a more subdued matt style on the barrel, topped off with a skeletonized top release latch. Very nice indeed!



CROWD PLEASER

The Rizzini BR-320 is definitely a crowd pleaser, and is but one of an extensive line of Rizzini shotguns built for not only sporting, but for trap, skeet and for hunting. The target models start in the mid \$2000 dollars, and go up to about \$8000 for the high grades. The BR-320 retails for just under \$3500 and is imported by the Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Co. of New Britain CT. (860-225-6581).

To see this gun and the complete line of B. Rizzini firearms, go to www.rizziniusa.com ■