

CAESAR GUERINI

A REVIEW BY TOM CERETTO

I HAVE A WEAKNESS FOR MULTI-GAUGE SETS – AND WHEN I ASKED CAESAR GUERINI IF WE COULD REVIEW THEIR SUMMIT SMALL BORE THREE BARREL SET, IT ARRIVED ALMOST AS SOON AS I HUNG UP THE PHONE!

The Summit is supposed to be Caesar Guerini's entry level competition series shotgun – but it sure doesn't look like one! The combo has nice engraving on all four sides of the matte gray receiver. Both sides are engraved with the Caesar Guerini logo surrounded in a delicately done oval that is surrounded by another oval. There is more engraving around the hinge pin and a bit more above and between the logo oval and that surrounding the hinge pin. As if that's not enough, the opening lever and top strap are engraved at about seventy percent. The bottom of the receiver sports the Summit name in gold plus engraving, as does the bottom of the trigger guard.

The machining on the forged steel receiver is particularly well done without a single tool mark visible. The trunnions are replaceable should that ever be required. A single hefty looking cocking rod runs down the center of the receiver floor. The release for the top lever is in the bottom of

the receiver floor. I like it much better than the button protruding from the receiver face on almost all other over and unders. Basically, the whole package is a scaled down Summit 12 gauge done in 20 gauge and very well done at that.

The safety is located on the top tang and incorporates the barrel selector. To switch barrels you put it on safe and move the selector to the left for the bottom barrel first and right for the top barrel first. The selector is not easy to move, but that's OK with me because once you select the barrel it stays firmly in place and is not easily jarred out of the sequence you have selected.

The trigger is adjustable and when I received the combo, it had been set just to the rear of center. I left it there and it fit me quite well. Trigger pull was 3.25 pounds for the bottom barrel and an identical 3.25 pounds for the top barrel. Somebody is doing something very right at the Guerini factory – trigger pulls are flawless and durable.

THREE BARREL SET





Combo Barrels

Each of the Guerini 30 inch combo barrels comes with its own fore-end. The barrels are shot for regulation before they are shipped from the factory – as are all Guerini shotguns field or target. All three barrels are nicely blued and highly polished without a single blemish or ripple evident. The 20 gauge barrel weighed 2.98 pounds and the 28 gauge barrels weighed in at 2.77 pounds. The .410 bore barrels weighed the same as the 28 gauge barrels at 2.77 pounds. I could not discern any difference in weight when I shot them – no matter what the gauge.

All three barrels have vented top ribs and the 20 and 28 gauge have vented side ribs. The mid rib on the .410 bore barrel is solid. This may be necessary to match the diminutive .410 bore barrels close to the 20 and 28 gauge barrels in weight. The chambers on the 20 and 28 gauge barrels are 2½ inch and the .410 bore chambers are 3 inch. The vented top ribs on the 20 and 28 gauge are parallel 10mm wide and the .410 rib is parallel 8mm wide from breech to muzzle.

Bores measured .626 for the 20 gauge, .554 for the 28 gauge and .410 for the .410 bore. The 20 gauge came with cylinder, skeet, two improved cylinder, light modified and modified chokes. The 28 gauge came with six chokes in cylinder, skeet, two improved cylinder, light modified

and modified. The .410 bore came with cylinder, skeet, improved cylinder, improved modified, modified and full. I shot the 20 gauge with mostly the improved

cylinder and light modified, the 28 gauge with improved cylinder and modified and the .410 bore with improved

SPECIFICATIONS

MANUFACTURER:	CAESAR GUERINI, BRESCIA, ITALY
IMPORTER:	GUERINI USA, CAMBRIDGE, MD, 410-901-1131, GUERINIUSA.COM
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	\$6,750.00
RECEIVER:	ALLOY STEEL MODIFIED, BOSS TYPE BOXLOCK
GUN TYPE:	O/U THREE BARREL SET
GAUGES:	20, 28 GAUGE & .410 BORE
RECEIVER FINISH:	COIN FINISH INVISALLOY FINISH
TRIGGER:	ADJUSTABLE FOR LOP
TRIGGER PULL:	BOTTOM BARREL 3.25 LBS. TOP BARREL 3.25 LBS
SAFETY:	MANUAL
AVERAGE WEIGHT:	20 GAUGE: 7 LBS 3 OZ. 28 GAUGE: 7 LBS 4 OZ. .410 BORE: 7 LBS 2 OZ.
BARRELS:	30" - 32" AVAILABLE
BARREL FINISH:	HIGH GLOSS POLISHED
AVERAGE BARREL WEIGHT:	20 GAUGE: 2.98 LBS 28 GAUGE: 2.77 LBS .410 BORE: 2.77 LBS
NOMINAL BORES:	20 GAUGE: .626" 28 GAUGE: .554" .410 BORE: .410
FORCING CONE:	20 GAUGE: 4" DUOCON 28 GAUGE: STANDARD .410 BORE: STANDARD
CHOKES:	20 GAUGE SIX CCP COMPETITION CHOKES INCLUDED 28 GAUGE SIX CCP COMPETITION CHOKES INCLUDED .410 BORE SIX CCP COMPETITION CHOKES INCLUDED
CHOKE LENGTH:	20 GAUGE 3" 28 GAUGE 3" .410 BORE 2.0625"
TOP RIB:	VENTED
RIB WIDTH:	20 GAUGE: 10MM 28 GAUGE: 10MM .410 BORE 8MM
SIDE RIB:	20 & 28 GAUGE VENTED .410 BORE SOLID
SIGHTS:	FRONT BEAD WHITE, BRADLEY STYLE
CENTER BEAD:	BRASS
STOCK & FORE-END:	WALNUT
FORE-END:	SCHNABEL
STOCK FINISH:	HAND RUBBED OIL
RECOIL PAD:	BLACK RUBBER
LOP:	14 7/8"
LOA:	48"
ACCESSORIES:	STOCK AND TRIGGER WRENCHES CHOKE CASE FOR EACH GAUGE NEGRINI THREE BARREL HARD CASE
DROP:	AT COMB 1.45" AT HEEL 2.15" AT FACE 1.56"
CAST:	AT HEEL .12" AT TOE .28"
BREECH TO COMB:	7.38"

cylinder and modified with excellent results.

The 20 and 28 gauge chokes are conical parallel and measured 3 inches long. I could not discern what type of chokes the .410 bore chokes were, but they measured 2.0625 inches in length. Each set of chokes came in their own case and performed perfectly for me when I did my job properly. I fell in love with the 20 gauge and .410 bore barrels, but rapturously in love with the 28 gauge. The 28 gauge has to be everyone's secret love child!

If the Summit is Guerini's entry level sporting clays gun, it is not evident by the quality of the wood that had some very nice grain and contrast. I was also surprised by how well Guerini matched the grain on all three fore-ends to the stock. That's something that's not easy to do and shows that Guerini pays close attention to detail.

Checkering on the wood is done at 26 lines per inch – without any run offs or miscues evident. The checkering was comfortable



to handle and offered a good grip with and without gloves.

On Test

I hate to sound like a cheer leader when I review a target gun, but I really enjoyed shooting the Guerini three barrel set – as did everyone else that shot it.

When I reviewed the Guerini for this article I had just received a fresh batch of Alliant Powder Company's new Pro Reach powder and I loaded some 20 and 28 gauge shells at 1,300 fps with number 8 shot. It proved to be a lethal combination. The first time out I shot a moderately difficult 12 gauge non-competitive course with the 28 gauge and shot a 96 – not bad for an old guy with a small gun! Another reason I liked shooting it so much is that I was going through a bad patch with my

left rotator cuff and found it painful to shoot the heavy 12 gauge. The weight of the Guerini at an average of only 7 pounds 4 ounces in all three gauges made life that much easier for me. I can't wait to win the lottery! ■