

Some shotguns have a big wow factor – the Caesar Guerini Maxum most definitely does.

Your eyes are immediately drawn to the tastefully executed scroll engraving from the Bottega Giovanelli design studios on the receiver and side plates. If the term ‘eye candy’ can be used to describe a shotgun, the Maxum is definitely it. But in this case beauty is not just skin deep, but full depth. Executed in a traditional over box lock style it is not only a nice gun to look at, but also a very nice gun to shoot.

Guerini shotguns share an elegantly shaped box lock receiver that is machined from a solid forging of high-grade steel. The receiver is surface hardened to a high Rockwell standard for wear, but the core is left softer for toughness, durability and long life. The receiver has replaceable trunions on the receiver walls for the barrels to pivot on. There are two extensions, or lumps, on the bottom of the monobloc with slots to receive the full-width locking lug that extends from the receiver face. The lumps fit snugly into machined recesses in the bottom of the receiver and help mitigate twisting forces upon discharge. The full width conical lug is self-adjusting for wear. This is a very strong type of lock up that can withstand heavy recoil and twisting forces at discharge. The exposed surfaces on both sides of the monobloc are machined turned in a delicate and attractive style.

*Caesar
Guerini
Maxum*

A HANDSOME GUN BUILT TO EXACTING STANDARDS SAYS TOM CERETTO



The machining is well executed to very close tolerances.

A feature I really like on Guerini shotguns are the rebounding hammers, a feature usually found only on very high-grade shotguns. Rebounding hammers retract back into the receiver after a shot is fired making the action easier to open after discharge. Rebounding hammers also significantly extend firing pin life.

SELECTIVE TRIGGER

The Maxum's selective trigger is crisp and firm and let off at



by a recoil block that may require replacement with a lighter spring if you are going to use it equipped with sub gauge tubes. The triggers are cocked by a single heavy duty cocking rod that rests in a machined slot in the floor of the receiver.

The safety, as it should be, requires a bit of effort to switch on and off. It also incorporates the barrel selector, which also requires a bit of pressure to move. I do not think you could accidentally move the barrel selector easily while shooting. I have done that with some shotguns. The machining and checkering of the safety selector is exceptionally well done.



slightly over four pounds. The bottom barrel required slightly more trigger pressure than the top barrel. The adjustable trigger can be moved up to 1/2 inch to accommodate the individual shooter. Triggers incorporate safety sears that have a secondary notch that catches the hammer and prevents accidental discharge and doubling. An excellent feature that, again, is usually found on pricy high-grade shotguns. The second barrel is engaged

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The ejectors disposed of expended shells very briskly. In fact, so briskly you had better be careful of where your squad-mates are standing! The designers equipped the Guerini with oversized extractors so that even the most stubborn shells are extracted with alacrity.

The ejectors have larger than usual rims and cover a full quarter of the circumference of the chambers.

BARRELS AND CHOKES

The barrels are machined from solid chrome molybdenum steel bar stock and are chrome lined. They sport a well-executed vented top rib and vented side rib for maximum heat dispersion. The 10mm top rib is finished off with fine cross checkering. A 1.5mm wide center slot runs the full length of the rib. The barrel is equipped with an ivory front bead and a brass center bead. The barrels are blued to a dark lustrous black.

The barrels are equipped with what Guerini calls DueCon dual

forcing cones. This is a dual cone system that has a short primary cone followed by a 4.5 inch long secondary section. Guerini believes this type of dual cone system achieves optimum performance with either fiber or plastic wads. The long secondary forcing cone should cause minimal shot distortion while the shot charge is traversing the forcing cone.

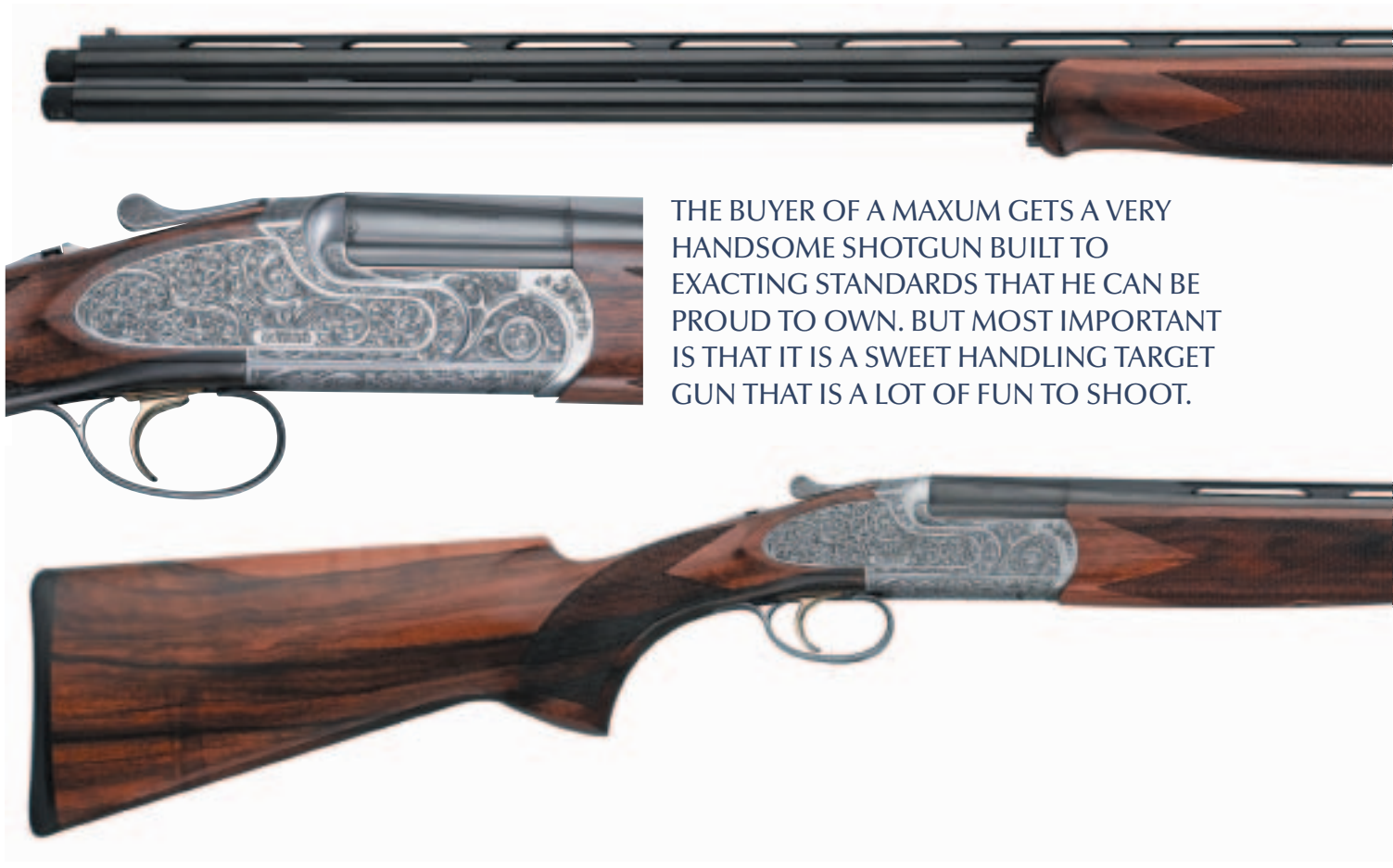
The nicely knurled extended competition chokes are almost a work of art. They are beautifully machined and blued to match the excellent dark black bluing of the barrels. The choke tubes are of a crowned conical parallel (CCP) design. Crowning of the type on these chokes is not often seen on shotgun chokes and is a welcome

feature. The sporting clays models come equipped with six choke tubes in five constrictions – cylinder, skeet, two improved cylinder, modified and light modified. A nice choke case is provided with the gun. Additional competition chokes are available from Guerini or Seminole.

I put the two improved cylinder chokes in and they dispatched every target I centered on two moderately difficult courses. I would like to see a light modified choke included with the gun, but owners can get their own, albeit at \$55 each. Most choke manufacturers I have talked to say that light modified chokes of 0.015 constrictions are some of the most asked for chokes they sell.

TURKISH WALNUT

If you have a beautiful nicely engraved receiver you have to have wood that matches that standard. The wood on the Maxum was a nice piece of select grade Turkish walnut with a hand rubbed high luster oil finish. The 26 lines per inch checkering is well done without a single runoff that I could detect. The stock shape and palm swell are designed specifically for the American shooter. Some European manufacturers, fortunately, do listen to American shooters and realize we do not like European dimensioned stocks. In fact, Wes Lang provided me with a stock to my dimensions, which I really appreciated. (If



THE BUYER OF A MAXUM GETS A VERY HANDSOME SHOTGUN BUILT TO EXACTING STANDARDS THAT HE CAN BE PROUD TO OWN. BUT MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT IT IS A SWEET HANDLING TARGET GUN THAT IS A LOT OF FUN TO SHOOT.

more manufacturers provided scribes with stocks that fit them we would shoot them better and write nicer things about their shotguns!)

By now everyone who has ever read any of my scribbling knows how I feel about Schnabel fore-ends. I don't like them. But I must admit the Schnabel fore-end on the Maxum was well done. It was slender, graceful and long enough and came to hand beautifully. The fore-end is attached with a push button Anson style fore-end latch that keeps the fore-end iron away from the bottom of the fore-end. This affords full checkering of the fore-end without interruption. The more commonly seen Deeley and Edge style fore-end latch is on the bottom of the

fore-end and tends to either rust from hand contact or have the bluing wear off. The fore-end came off and snapped on without effort. I liked it.

ON TEST

The Guerini fit me well and I thought I shot it as well as an old guy can. Except for one round, where I completely lost my focus, I averaged over 80 percent. Balance was right on the pivot and the gun handled smoothly. Transitioning from one target to another when shooting a true pair was effortless. I don't think anyone would have a problem getting into a groove with this gun.

What impressed me most was the attention to detail. The

metal-to-metal fit and wood to metal fit, especially where the stock meets the receiver and side plates, is done in a first class manner without a single gap between metal and wood. The well-executed general fit and finish of the entire gun is impressive.

At \$4,950 the Guerini Maxum is not an inexpensive gun, but I think it is most definitely worth the asking price. The engraving alone would cost that much on a boutique side-by-side. The buyer of a Maxum gets a very handsome shotgun built to exacting standards that he can be proud to own. But most important is that it is a sweet handling target gun that is a lot of fun to shoot. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

- MANUFACTURER: CAESAR GUERINI, BRESCIA, ITALY**
- U.S.A. IMPORTER: CAESAR GUERINI U.S.A., CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND**
- ACTION: BOSS STYLE BOXLOCK**
- SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$4,950**
- GUN WEIGHT: 7 LBS. 8 OZ. (WEIGHED)**
- LOP: 14.7"**
- DROP AT COMB: 1.5"**
- DROP AT HEEL: 2.15"**
- CAST AT HEEL: .19"**
- CAST AT TOE: .31"**
- PITCH: 5"**
- BREECH TO COMB: 7.75"**
- BARRELS: 30" (TESTED), 32" AND 34"**
- CHAMBERS: 2 3/4"**
- BORE SIZE: 0.725**
- CHOKES: CYLINDER, SKEET, TWO IC, MOD & LIGHT MOD**
- TRIGGER: SINGLE SELECTIVE**
- TRIGGER PULL: 4LBS. 2 OZ. AND 4 LBS. 4 OZ.**



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ESPECIALLY WHERE THE STOCK MEETS THE RECEIVER AND SIDE PLATES, IS DONE IN A FIRST CLASS MANNER WITHOUT A SINGLE GAP BETWEEN METAL AND WOOD.