

BENELLI VINCI

For as long as auto-loading shotguns have been built the design basically has stayed the same. The Benelli Vinci however is like nothing on the market before it. In fact it is like nothing you have seen before in shotguns. It is a modular design with one module consisting of the barrel and receiver, the next is the stock and the final module is the trigger housing and fore grip which includes the magazine.

The Vinci's receiver is a simple cylinder and not much larger in diameter than the barrel. Rather than linking a return spring located in the butt-stock with the bolt, it is located in the receiver where it is connected directly to the bolt.

Benelli call this an in-line inertia system and it is capable of cycling anything from 2 3/4" quail loads to heavy duty 3" goose loads without any adjustments. The entire operating system, including the short bolt and return spring, functions on the same axis as the bore. Vinci's have a greatly improved ergonomic relationship between the wrist position and the trigger angle. What many shooters don't realise is that a part of what they perceive as recoil is actually a blow delivered to the cheek by the stock as the shotgun recoils backward and upward. The 'in-line' recoil engineered into the Vinci reduces this dramatically. To add to the ergonomics and grip, the Comfort Tech Plus synthetic stock is basically a multiple section design with the pieces connected by shock absorbing rubber chevrons. When the gun is fired, the stock flexes internally (compresses) and in doing so it soaks up a great deal of recoil before it reaches the shooters shoulder.

A shotgun should 'fit' the shooter and we are all built different, so the Stock Shim Kit supplied with the Vinci allows the hunter to adjust drop and cast to the preference of the individual. The trigger is as smooth and crisp as you will find on any autoloader and the 'traverse' is arguably the quickest on the market. The safety is just forward of the trigger where it should be.

To enhance shot patterns and decrease felt recoil, the hammer forged barrel of the Vinci is cryogenically treated for an extremely smooth bore surface. Barrel length options are 26" and 28". Included are five chokes (cylinder to full). These are high grade Benelli Crio System chokes which are frozen to minus 300 degrees Fahrenheit to relieve stresses and uneven grain structure. This process achieves denser more uniform, shot patterns. Vincis are supplied with a cool looking and very handy hard carry case with compartments for chokes etc - it's even

supplied with a handy field sized bottle of lubricant. You'll only need to apply 6 or so drops of lube each clean to keep your Vinci running like a sewing machine so this little bottle of oil will last a very long time.

The Vinci comes in a flat non-glare black, or for hunters more into camo, a Max-4 HD finish. The overall length is 45 3/4 or 47 3/4 inches (depending on barrel length) and it weighs a crisp 6-7lb. All models feature a vented rib with a red-bar front sight and metal mid-sight. If the Vinci is not the ultimate semi auto, it isn't far from it. The weight is distributed so that it points well, the recovery from a first or second shot is instant and recoil is mild. There is a saying in shooting, "First aim is best". The Benelli Vinci is one of the fastest pointing shotguns on the market and the target acquisition is as instant for follow-up shots as they claim it is! But don't just take my word for it, come to one of the Beretta/Benelli duck shooters clay bird shoots (see page 30) this season and try a Vinci on the demo stand for yourself!

AS A GUN WRITER ONCE STATED... "IT CARRIES LIKE A .410, SHOULDERS LIKE A 20, AND SHOOTS LIKE A 12"... GERALD WISHES HE'D WRITTEN THIS LINE AS IT PRETTY WELL SUMS UP THE VINCI.



GERALD MACRAE

SOUTHLAND IS THE BENELLI CAPITAL OF NZ. GERALD MACRAE CO-OWNS HUNTING & FISHING NEW ZEALAND INVERCARGILL AND IS A DEVOTED BENELLI M2 SUPER 90 SHOOTER. WITH THE SPARE MAGAZINE DEAL OFFERED THIS YEAR AND THE FAST SHOOTING QUALITIES OF THE BENELLI VINCI BECOMING BETTER KNOWN, GERALD CONCLUDES THAT A VINCI SHOULD BE ON THE SHORT LIST THIS SEASON. SEE DEAL - PAGE 14



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