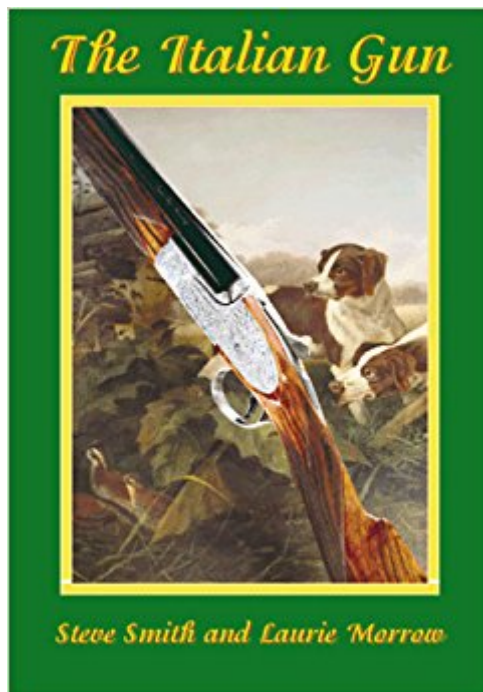


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The Italian Gun



Synopsis

Book by Smith, Steve, Morrow, Laurie

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book by Smith, Steve, Morrow, Laurie

This book appears to be the leading one available for fine Italian guns. Three people have reviewed this book ahead of me and the first two were unimpressed, while the third one really liked it. Let me say that the first two generally have it correct--this book is a dud. Oddly, most of the book is written in the second person which is really annoying. It contains some interesting information and some nice color plates but the manner in which the author conveys the information contains too much fluff. "Imagine Daniele Perazzi and his translator beckoning you to his Ferrari...you are going 125MPH on the autostrada with them" I own a Ferrari and most of them are 2 seaters (no room for the translator) and the ones that are 2+2's will not accomodate an adult in the back seat, so you can see that some of the text is made up. I have a hard time reading more than one chapter at a time. This is no scholarly work like the fine histories of the English gunmakers that are available. Much of the manufacturer information is circa 1996 and is therefore outdated. Large portions of the book are dedicated to Beretta and Perazzi. My interest is in the small gunmakers and there is little history or information on them. Gets a third star only because it has no competition.

Pleased with the purchase.

This book has some beautiful photographs of some very fine Italian guns but lacks consistency in the text describing the manufacturers. For instance, the piece on Renato Gamba tells us what he USED to do but not really what he's doing now except to say that he makes fewer guns and sells a line of clothing. Nor does he explain why Gambas are in the "best" category. Likewise, the section on V. Bernardelli basically gives us slightly more than a list of the guns produced by that company (now out of business) but not anything about what makes those guns "Best" either. No photographs of Gambas, or Bernardellis and no illustrations or diagrams that explain or show the features of the F.lli. Rizzini triggers and actions even though the text describes them as being innovative.. The Beretta section has a good section on the 470 Silverhawk but no mention at all of the earlier Beretta Silverhawk produced in the 1960's or why Beretta chose the same name for their new release which closely resembles the earlier model. I appreciated the attempt to bring some of the more human-personal elements of the people who manufacture these great guns into the topic with anecdotes and even a recipe. However, the Authors' credibility in recognizing the highest level of quality becomes questionable when they included the recipe for ravioli which calls for "canned" pumpkin. I'll keep the book, it will sit on my shelf and I will refer to it on occasion but it could have been much, much more.

This has to be one of the best books on fine firearms I have ever read. Reading this book is a sheer pleasure. The photographs are about the best I have ever seen. It has been said the Italians make the best shotguns. This book explains why and how. Not only are they mechanically perfected, but they are works of art. To see Bulino style engraving is to think you have been transported to another world, where art, form, and function have come together. For those who enjoy firearms, own an Italian shotgun, or desire to this is a book you must possess. Sadly, one of the manufacturers listed in the book, Vincenzo Bernardelli, is no longer in business. They went belly up awhile back. Pity, as they made very nice shotguns for those who couldn't afford to buy something like a Piotti. A very well written book.

the book contained too many generalities ie. gunpowder development, gun fit ,. and not enough specifics concerning serial numbers and their dates of manufacture .Very little information concerning Beretta high grade guns ie what were the predecessors to the So, 5,6, and 9 when were they manufactured, and why were they discontinued ,what were the changes? the same for other manufacturers. A great deal of the book was nothing more than a catalog available at most gun

stores. the section on engraving was excellent as were the photographs. I don't believe the book was worth the effort to assemble ,or worth the money .

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