Benelli Vinci

By Kyle Wintersteen,
Senior Associate Editor

A ll major gun magazines have reported that the Benelli Vinci’s "unprecedented hype" and "media blitz" or some cliché derivative thereof. If, like me, one more mention of Benelli's promotional campaign will cause you physical pain, I hope what follows is more your speed. Rather than discuss how Benelli has marketed the Vinci or opining whether it's lived up to the hype, let's delve into how this semi-auto 12-gauge works and why you might like it as well. I had the uncodnced experience to shoot thousands of shells through the Vinci on a dove hunt in Argentina, so I have a few well-earned things to say.

The Vinci breaks down into three parts that Benelli calls modules: a barrel-receiver, a trigger group/forearm and a buttstock. Notably absent is a screw-on magazine cap—something that's present on just about every semi-auto made since the Browning A-5.

The trigger group/forearm module includes the trigger assembly, shell carrier, forearm and magazine tube, which are all contained in one 18.75-inch polymer shell. A lug on the roof of the magazine tube is arguably the most important piece of steel in the whole gun, as it engages a recess below the barrel—a sturdy insurance that the modules remain together and function as a unit.

The barrel/receiver module consists of an upper receiver mated directly to a cryo-genically treated, 735-inch back-bored barrel. Despite the gun's departures from traditional design, its inertia-driven action makes it clear that within this gun lies the heart of a Benelli. Still, it had to be engineered to accommodate the modular system. The bolt's two lug, rotating head is the same found in other semi-auto Benelis, but behind it lies a key difference: The bolt's rearward spring and corresponding guide rod compress the guide rod can quickly be swapped out to adjust for fit. I snapped on a berel recod pad for longer length of pull—the process couldn't have been easier. Supplied shims help tweak for cast and drop.

The biggest advantage of the Vinci's modularity is the ease and extent to which the gun disassembles. The Vinci's disassembly is small and convenient. And if the old adage "if I shoot a gun, I clean it" was ever true, the Vinci will definitely

and positioned my wrist appropriately in relation to the trigger. The grip, as well as the fore-end, are cut with "V-Grip" rather than checkering. American Rifleman Editor in Chief Mark Reede likened its appearance to "corrugated cardboard", but it does trick in a variety of weather conditions. Recoil was quite negligible for a 6.5-pounds. After putting through 300 rounds of Dove loads through the Vinci, I had a small, recoil-pad-shaped callus on my shoulder—possibly from the friction of Benelli Vinci

800-254-4902 www.benelliusa.com

- Action Type: semi-automatic shotgun
- Gauge: 12
- Chamber: 3"
- Barrel: 28" (28"
- Sights: red fiber optic front and white metal mid-RB bead, receiver drilled and tapped
- Safety: trigger-guard mounted, crossbolt
- Stock: black synthetic, "V-Grip"
- Overall Length: 47.5" (28"
- Stock Dimensions: length of pull: 14 1/8";
- Drop at heel: 2 1/4"; Drop at comb: 1 1/4"
- Weight: 6 lbs, 12 ozs.
- Finish: upper receiver, blued steel; lower receiver, black poly
- Extras: fitted hard plastic case, five choke tubes, wrench, oil bottle, shims kit for changing cast/drop
- Price: $1,379 (black) $1,479 (camo dip)

Despite its bulbous trigger guard and futuristic lines, the radical Vinci proved absolutely reliable in the field, horrid one to affect sighting performance. That said, if a crisp shotgun trigger is important to you, the Vinci should meet your expectations.

The Vinci's modular magazine tube easily removes from the gun, a feature that facilitates cleaning.

Argentina, one statistic in particular stands out: During just more than three days of hunting, I put 7,500 14-shot, 12-gauge rounds (estate, three kinds of Fiocchi and locally made cartridges) through the Vinci and had zero failures to feed. These numbers ought to impress anyone.

The Vinci's modular magazine tube is a feature that facilitates cleaning.