Benelli Vinci

Being an ardent shotgunning, how would you like to have a new shotgun named after you—500 years after your death? Think you have made enough impact on the world for that? Leonardo de Vinci did. Born 1452, died 1519, de Vinci was a painter, sculptor, architect, scientist, and more, perhaps best known for his Mona Lisa. Benelli perhaps now tries to capitalize on that classic image with its new semi-auto 12 gauge dubbed simply the Vinci.

Last January, the name and the concept of the brand-new Vinci was introduced at the SHOT Show, but it was not shown save for the distinctive shotgun case that was bowed at the ends, svelte in the middle, with that case conveying the idea that there was a classic instrument inside.

At noon on March 31, the Vinci was first introduced to the outside world via a four-minute video on the company website. Up until then, Benelli had kept virtually all aspects of this new shotgun very well under figurative wraps. On March 17, at Pica Zuro Lodge near Cordoba, Argentina, I was with a small group of gun writers who were the first to see this new semi-auto. Even a significant percentage of Benelli employees had never seen this shotgun before. So why all the build-up mystery? What is it that makes the Vinci special enough to enjoy such a unique introduction?

The most unique aspect of the Vinci, at least in my view, is how the buttstock attaches to the receiver. You place the two pieces together at a 90-degree angle to one another and then simply "twist" the butt to the receiver. That means there is no through-the-stock bolt, the way almost all shotguns have their

The Vinci is offered in two camo patterns, plus black composite. The 12th chevron at the very rear of the new ComforTech Plus stock is wider and higher to absorb even more recoil.

**SPECIFICATIONS**
- **Action**: Semi-auto using the Inertia Driven System
- **Gauge**: 12 only with 3" chamber
- **Weight**: 6.9 lbs.
- **Barrel**: 26" or 28"
- **Chokes**: Five Crio screw-ins supplied
- **Stock**: Composite ComforTech Plus offered in black composite, APG, and Max-4; dimensions: length of pull—14 3/8", drop at comb—1 3/8", drop at heel—2"
- **Suggested Retail Price**: $1,379 in black composite, $1,479 in camo versions
- **Manufacturer**: Manufactured by Benelli in Italy; distributed by Benelli USA, Indian Head Hwy., Dept. SC, Accokeek, MD 20607; (301) 864-4962; www.benelliusa.com
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Argentina Dove Destination
We shot one heck of a lot of doves with the brand new Benelli Vinci at Pica Zuro Lodge. This was my fourth Pica Zuro visit, and each has been better than the former. It’s easy to shoot to 1,000 rounds each morning and afternoon of your hunt here, and many gunners shoot even more. A lot to book a hunt at this lodge, contact Jeri Booth at Detail Company Adventures, 3220 Audubon, Dept. SC, Houston, TX 77006; (800) 292-2213; www.detailcompany.com.

Picture courtesy of Benelli USA

Email Nick Sidley at nicksidley@hotmail.com

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