

The Syren Julia

Field





20 GAUGE* FIELD MODEL AS TESTED BY GAYLA COOPER

As someone who has shot 200,000+ clay targets throughout the years, I have done so with a variety of shotguns. Though I am not an avid hunter I have shot quail before, and I certainly understand what I want in a field shotgun. When I received the phone call to try this shotgun, I thought, absolutely, why not? I love trying different shotguns and the only Syren I have had the opportunity to shoot was the Syren Tempio 12 gauge during a demo workshop.

FIRST THOUGHTS

The shotgun receiver is beautiful. A woman's face engraved with a floral motif is definitely fitting since the shotgun is named after Caesar's daughter Julia who was known for her beauty and grace. I was a little afraid to take it out of the case. By the way, the case was very secure and well thought out to protect the shotgun. It took a moment to put the shotgun together, however, after a little effort, I soon figured it out and felt the gun lock together securely. The shotgun's weight is spot on. It would be suitable for a long upland hunt that required a lot of walking. This shotgun

SPECIFICATIONS	
MODEL:	SYREN JULIA FIELD
GAUGE:	20 GAUGE *(28 GAUGE AVAILABLE)
BARRELS:	28"
LOP:	13.9"
DAC:	1.5"
DAH:	2.5"
CAH:	.25"
CAT:	.5"
PITCH:	7 DEGREES
GRIP LENGTH:	4"
WEIGHT:	6LBS 9OZ
CHOKES:	5 NICKEL-PLATED, FLUSH-FITTED CHOKES
WARRANTY:	LIFETIME LIMITED
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	\$6,250

SYREN

can easily be thrown over your shoulder causing no fatigue.

THE WOOD

At first glance, I felt the wood was appropriately figured and accentuated Julia's phenomenally engraved side-plates. Gun enthusiasts have great appreciation for high-quality Turkish walnut with a semi-gloss finish to highlight the floral motif used to create the woman's face on the side-plates. The stock has a Monte Carlo comb. This is imperative in a true "woman's" shotgun to allow for the sightline height most women need over the top of the rib. The rose etched into the stock behind the receiver is a nice feminine touch to add elegance to the stock. The length of pull was an ideal fit for me as I am only 5 feet tall. I do feel it would be very easy to add a spacer to the stock for a taller female with a longer length of pull. The rounded grip was also the appropriate size for my smaller hands allowing me to reach the trigger easier. The checkering was well-balanced and definitely allowed something to "feel," in order to keep my hand in the same place. The butt pad was not a pad at all but a 15 mm wood-

plate to give the shotgun a more traditional hunting appearance.

The forend was very secure on the barrels once the shotgun was locked together. The Schnabel forend was slim for my ungloved hands, but I can see the added benefit of a smaller Schnabel forend, for someone that has smaller hands or for those who like to lightly cradle the forend in a gloved hand. I was very impressed by the forend release and functionality. The button was large and very easy to use. The forend wood equally matched the stock in grain, color, and finish.

THE METAL

The receiver side-plates are the most impressive part of the Julia. The 24K gold floral motif shaped into a woman's face is absolutely stunning and fitting for an Italian-made shotgun. The receiver side-plates are undoubtedly works of art and should be displayed. Floral engraving decorates the receiver and the oversized trigger guard, which is sized to facilitate a gloved shooter. The Julia comes with a manual single selective trigger and a tang-mounted safety with integral



barrel selector. Upon doing some research I learned there is also an option for an automatic safety that engages when the action is open. The lever was very easy to use, and the trigger was very light and easy to reach. Having a closer trigger to the grip is always a plus for someone with shorter fingers, and the Julia does not disappoint with this feature. The 28" barrels were very well made, and at 2lbs 11 oz keep the weight off the shotgun for

Takeaway after shooting the Julia for a few hours. She definitely shoots where you look. If it was flying, it was dying. The Julia is very light, I was not fatigued after walking a mile carrying the shotgun and my gear. The recoil was tolerable for such a lightweight shotgun. Although I am used to a professionally fit shotgun, I had no bruises or soreness on my face or shoulder. If you want a lightweight shotgun that is stunning, and the envy of the hunt, the Julia is your girl. ■

quick mount while hunting. The solid mid-rib allows for an easy sightline over the shotgun. The Julia comes with a variety of factory flush chokes, everything you need for a successful hunt.

PUTTING THE JULIA TO USE

I shot the Julia at the American Shooting Center in Katy, Texas. I used RC T3 7/8 oz 1200 fps # 7.5 loads. I chose targets that were incoming, teal, and going away to simulate different types of upland birds. All the targets were varying distances and speeds simulating an actual hunt with varying terrain and background as well. I also walked to test carrying the Julia on a long hunt. I was a bit surprised, as I thought the Julia would have a heavy recoil due to the light weight of the gun and not having a rubber recoil pad. I was pleasantly surprised. The Julia had a tolerable recoil, it did not slap my face, and I mounted the gun quite easily due to how lightweight the shotgun is. A wider butt pad would allow for a more comfortable fit into the shoulder pocket, but it would also add weight and take away from the lightness. I was very impressed by the trigger. The Julia trigger was surprisingly quick, had great placement in relation to the grip, and was a short pull. You would not need to adjust the Julia trigger.

