

Say Hello to Julia

ANDREA BOGARD INTRODUCES US TO SYREN'S LATEST SPORTING SHOTGUN FOR WOMEN

In a time of social distancing, no visible facial expressions, Zoom meetings and elbow bumps, the art of the introduction has gone somewhat by the wayside. Syren USA has brought back this lost art a bit. Let's say hello to Julia.

Julia introduces herself in rich hues, strong textures and dulcet aesthetic tones. Her namesake is Julia, daughter of Caesar, and means "beauty and virtue." Julia was his only child over the course of his life. So, say hello to Julia. The only child of shotguns as it were.

When that UPS package arrived, I eagerly slit the tape and slid the iconic hard, white gun case out. I clicked the latches and lifted the lid. I was greeted with purple velvet slip covers emblazoned with the distinctive swoopy Syren "S."

I slid the stock out of its velvet nest and took in the engraving on the high finish, case color receiver. The intricate laser-

dandelions. This was viewed somewhat wistfully because it was 17 degrees below zero outside my window.

The wood was rich, dark, full of figure and finished to a beautiful oiled lustre. The adjustable comb was perfectly streamlined with the rest of the stock. The detail on the case color receiver and lever was offset with a unique violet design that sparkled in the cold winter

Huge thank you to all those who answered!

Read on to get to know Julia, based on what's important to you in a shotgun:

How smooth is the trigger? The trigger is smooth, but has a little more felt take-up than some of the Syrens I have shot. Good news! The trigger is adjustable both forward and back within the trigger guard, but also in weight and travel. Due to time constraints, I did not adjust the trigger. It was positioned in the rear setting, leaving length of pull at factory spec.

How smooth does it break open? Eject shells? It breaks open as you'd expect from a brand new gun. You've heard of the "new car smell?" This is the "new gun" feel – stiff. I look at this as an indicator of Syren quality and manufacturing tolerances. It breaks smooth, but with crisp resistance. It ejects shells with alacrity and consistency. Standing in the same location and ejecting shells in a common direction yielded a nice little pile in the snow behind me. This tells me the ejectors are uniform and well-timed.

How does it feel? The Julia feels solid,

sunlight. Okay, we've said hello to Julia. She's beautiful and elegantly put together. What's next? Let's get to know the Syren beneath the surface.

Upon sitting down to tell you about Julia, I first posed the question in both personal and social media contexts: "When you sit down to get to know a shotgun, what is it you want to know?"

engraved surface sparkled in hues of gold and depicted a woman's profile blowing what appeared to be a cloud of

smooth and strong. She also feels warm. Sometimes I've picked up a gun and felt a chilly disconnect. Not the Julia. I picked her up and she felt natural, warm, connected and ready to engage. Imagine meeting a person and getting a warm approachable vibe vs. a chilly standoffish feeling. Think warm fuzzies vs. cold pricklies (we all know the feeling). The Julia is warm.

Grip size? If it's made for a woman, is it scaled down in size? The grip size is not what I would call scaled down, but it maintains the critical smaller grip radius, an important measurement in fit. Many women have long fingers and larger hands, thus needing a full-sized (non-scaled-back) gun. Syren has many shotguns in their line-up that are more petite in proportion with slenderized components and diminished weights. The Julia is not one of them. She is designed to stand toe-to-toe with the non-women specific shotguns on the market and look absolutely beautiful doing it.

Length of pull? The length of pull is measured from the trigger in the rear position with the factory installed pad. It comes in at 13.9." The construction of the monte carlo as well as the inletting of the adjustable comb permit addition length adjustment if desired.

One or two triggers? The Julia, in keeping with her intended purpose of competitive sporting clays applications, has one trigger. It is adjustable and selective.

Screw in choke options? She comes with six Maxis competition chokes. These are the same chokes used in the Caesar Guerini competition over-under lines and pattern on the tighter side.

How's the balance? The balance is textbook, with the balance point located directly on the hinge pin. However, perceived balance varies by shooter due to form, mount and fit dimensions.

Does it feel alive in the hands? This is one of my personal favorites. Have you ever picked up a gun and felt like you just hefted a two by four or a piece of rerod? I have. It's not fun to shoot, carry or swing. The Julia feels eager, alive, nimble and ready to take on the world at the call of "pull."

Chrome lined barrels or no? The barrels are chrome lined and are available standard in 30" configuration and special order in 32" length.

Barrel heavy or stock heavy? This one goes back to perceived balance. To me, she felt concentrated close to my body and the barrels required very little input from me to move. One person I handed her to said she felt somewhat barrel heavy, but their ideal length of pull measurement was shorter than the Julia's dimensions.

How is it for a left-handed shooter? The Julia is available in a left-handed configuration by special order.

Weight? If I'm shooting all day, is it heavy? The Julia with the adjustable comb hardware and finish work weighs in at 8 lbs 5 oz. With the standard 30" barrels and monte carlo, the advertised weight is 7 lbs 15 oz. This is a gun designed to be comfortably shot all day on the clays course with standard 12 ga loads. This not a trapeze through the pheasant fields for 15 miles firearm.

Adjustability? The Syren Julia is a lady with options. She offers an adjustable comb option providing comb, pitch and cast corrections to get that "just right" fit.

How does it drive? I feel some people like Ferraris and some people like Tahoes...

How does the gun drive? I have always loved cars. The headlight game was one of my favorites on road trips as a kid. When this question was posed, it really resonated. The Julia reminds me of an extended Cadillac Escalade. She's sleek, shiny, elegant and boldly sculpted with plenty of horsepower.

Now you've gotten to know the Syren Julia a bit. Here's what I came away with from some quality time on the range with her. Julia is far more than a beautiful gun. She is a true pinnacle symbol of Syren's dedication to bringing exceptional quality, purpose built, application driven, high performance shotguns to the female shooter. In her they created the ultimate syren – enticing to acquire and dangerous to her target.

Check out www.syrenusa.com for more information and to find a dealer near you! ■

#sayhellotojulia



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