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Review: Syren Julia Sporting Competition Shotgun For Women

Unique and eye-catching are the first impressions when you see Julia, but the quality and features of this gun make it much more than just a beautiful new shotgun for women.

*BY TIM LE CRAS AND THE
BUCKEYE ELITE SHOOTING TEAM*

The Syren line of shotguns, produced by Caesar Guerini and Fabarm, are specifically designed for women shooters. Syren has led the market for a number of years with several models for women that include both semi-automatics and over-and-unders. Syren has recently released a new state-of-the-art competition-grade target shotgun, named the Julia, that has an innovative design.

The gun is named after a daughter of Caesar, who was supposedly of stunning beauty, elegance and remarkable personal charms. We had several young female shooters put the gun through its paces in sporting clays and skeet to see if it performed as well as it looked. Their feedback is reported below, along with a review of all the features that this attractive new gun offers.





KEY FEATURES

Julia is only available in a 12-gauge model chambered for 2¾-inch shells. Average weight is around 7 lb. 15 oz. The action is a bolt Boss type. The rich color-case-hardened finish on the action is striking, but what makes Julia particularly unique are the side plates and bottom of the action that feature exquisite fantasy-style engraving depicting a woman's face evolving from a floral scroll pattern.

Julia has a DTS trigger system with takeup, travel and length of pull (LOP) adjustments, which are the types of features that are expected on a competition gun like this. The gun safety is manual,



although automatic is an option. Julia comes with 30-inch chrome-lined barrels, with 5-inch Duocon forcing cones. 32-inch barrels can be special ordered for an additional charge. The gun has a flat, tapered rib common on sporting clays models, with a height of 6mm. There is a silver center bead and a Bradley-style white front bead. The Monte Carlo-style stock is made from a deluxe grade of Turkish walnut with a semi-glass oil finish, and it's capped with a black rubber recoil pad.

A stock with an adjustable comb can be ordered for \$410 but is only available currently for right-handed models. A left-handed stock option is available for an additional \$260. The stock has a 13.9-inch LOP, but the adjustable trigger allows for some fine tuning, which makes this perfect for most female shooters. The pistol grip is reduced so as to better accommodate smaller female hands. The forend is rounded.





CASE AND ACCESSORIES

Julia comes with a plastic hard case with an interior designed to fit the gun and two combination locks. There are velvet stock and barrel sleeves to slip the gun into when placing it into the case. Six external MAXIS chokes (cylinder, skeet, two IC, light mod, mod) are supplied standard. Additional accessories include a stock and trigger wrench, choke case and friction choke wrench.

GUN TEST

Bella Earley, a young woman on our Buckeye Elite youth team who is used to shooting 30-inch over-and-unders, tested Julia. The model we tested had 30-inch barrels and did not have an adjustable comb. Bella shot the gun on sporting clays and skeet, and as she opened the case, her first response was that she really liked the finish and look of the gun — but what she was really concerned about was how the gun would shoot. She commented when assembling the gun that the forearm went on really smoothly.

Our NSCA sporting clays coach, Richard Tedrick, who was assisting with the gun test, remarked that it was very noticeable what a really good wood-to-metal fit there was around the receiver and other parts. Bella found that the gun was neither too heavy nor too light and had great balance between her hands. The quality of the walnut stock was excellent, and the finish was not overly glossy, but also very smooth. Bella noticed that while the action was tight since the gun was new, it was also smooth and not hard to close. The safety/barrel selector was easy to reach.

She was particularly pleased with the comfort of the pistol grip that positioned her trigger finger exactly in the right place without even having to adjust the trigger position. Since the trigger is adjustable, this would have been easy to tweak, if needed. She felt that the gun just fit her hands perfectly. Bella made multiple comments about how well the gun moved and felt little to no recoil when shooting it. She noticed that the trigger was crisp and easy to reach.

After nearly 100 shells, she was still smiling, despite the day on which we did the test being around 25 degrees with snow on the ground. Bella liked the functionality of the Julia

SYREN JULIA

KEY STATS

Gauge	12 only
Barrels	30-inch chrome-lined
Action	Bolt Boss style case-hardened
Trigger	Adjustable DTS
Stock & forearm	Deluxe grade Turkish walnut; semi-gloss oil finish
Length of pull	13.9 inches
Weight	7 lb. 15 oz.
Cost	MSRP \$6,050

case with a number of internal areas to store extra chokes or other accessories and also the combination locks. Overall, she was thoroughly delighted with Julia, and this showed throughout the test. One final comment she made was that “the gun swung like second nature” and made it easy to break clays.

BOTTOM LINE

The overall appearance of Julia is striking, and with its high quality and features, the price (MSRP \$6,050) seems quite reasonable, to me, for a gun that is competition-grade and high quality in all aspects. A limited lifetime warranty is included. Julia should work well for women who enjoy shooting multiple disciplines. While not inexpensive, we think that the overall quality and design of this gun justifies the price compared to similar quality models from other manufacturers. It also fits very nicely into the top end of Syren's line. Try Julia for yourself, as while the looks might intrigue you at first, it is how she shoots that will determine if this is the one for you. **CTN**

► Tim Le Cras is the head coach of the Buckeye Elite Shooting Team, an SCTP youth team in Cincinnati, Ohio. Tim can be reached by email at timdlecras@gmail.com or phone (513) 317-6352. Bella Earley performed the test of the Julia with assistance from coach Richard Tedrick.