

# Zoli Pernice



## THE PERFECT PAIRING



BY ANDREA BOGARD

The intensity of a “birdy” dog; the flutter of wingbeats; the rush of adrenaline and the report of a shotgun. This sequence is one loved by bird hunters the world over. A bird in the bag is frequently secondary to the love of the process.

Bird hunting is all about pairings – crisp leaves and warm fall sunlight; happy dogs and feathers in strange places; a good cigar and a glass of bourbon following a successful hunt and especially, the intoxicating aroma of that “first shot” of the morning and a freshly-oiled shotgun. The most recent addition to this perfect pairing is the Zoli Pernice in 28 gauge and .410.

I had the honor of taking to the woods and the clays course this fall with the Pernice in hand. Come along with me as we learn about this magnificent Italian shotgun and what makes her the perfect pairing for days afield.

The Pernice is a round-body, purpose-built shotgun. When I first saw her, the first thing that struck me was the receiver. In a world of gold inlays and elaborate bird-hunting inspired motifs, the Pernice receiver is an elegant and transfixing tapestry of low relief, high contrast scrollwork on a case-colored backdrop. It's both classic and elaborate, with seemingly no beginning and no end.

the beauty of the *Acanthus spinosus* leaves and creating an infinite and flowing connection to the forest. The Boss receiver was the first built with no flat sides –its surfaces were rounded and flow seamlessly into one another.

The Boss over-under action is another component that truly pairs beautifully with the Pernice. The emphasis on optimum geometry for flawless function complements the flowing aesthetic of the Pernice. This action was perfected in the 1900s and is based on a trunnion rather than hinge concept. Utilizing an underlug closing system in lieu of a hinge, the Pernice has both engineering strength and longevity.

Along the lines of geometry, the Pernice boasts the unique Churchill style rib. This is a great feature in the field because it creates a dynamic effect of visual point ability through taper and shadow. The use of this rib style gives the shooter an optical path to the bird or target based on a vanishing-type effect. Traditionally matted out and higher at the rear, the Churchill style rib is a great

lines of the receiver, wood structure and streamlined barrels, all feel rounded and soft. See what I mean by “purpose-built?” Let's check out some specs:

I was able to take the 28 gauge /.410 two-barrel set through one beautiful fall afield. Here's what I found. I loved having the option of a 28 or .410. Honestly, the Pernice had me at “28 gauge.” I am a devout lover of sub gauges and the fun to be had both afield and on the course.

Initially, I put the 28-gauge barrels on and double checked the chokes. Both barrel sets come with a full set of screw-in chokes! This is a fantastic bonus that enhances the blend of classic beauty with modern advantage. With a Skeet choke in the bottom and an Improved Cylinder in the top, I grabbed a box of shells and hit the clays course.

The 30-inch barrels swung beautifully and I was amazed at the balance, even with an overly-long (for me) length of pull. After a box of shells, it was time to swap barrels. The 20-gauge frame balanced just as well with the .410 barrels. It was time to see how she shot.

Wow. Never before have I experienced a .410 possessed of such fluid and effortless movement.

I had found my go-to bird gun. Over the next few months, I carried her through countless covers and miles of trails. Birds went up and some went in the bag.

The Zoli



addition to this bespoke shotgun.

The cornerstone of the vision for the Pernice is beauty afield. The word “Pernice” actually means “partridge” in Italian. A partridge is a “round, brown bird,” according to the Webster dictionary definition. The rounded

The engraving for the Pernice was a joining of visions for Zoli and Bottego Incisioni, the world-renowned engraving studio. Their vision revolved around



Pernice in .410 was proving to be a wonderful pairing in the woods. Here are a few things to keep in mind. With 30-inch barrels, it may be a bit long for some covers, but is magnificently pointable and well-balanced. With a rounded fore-end and Prince of Wales stock configuration, it is comfortable to hold and quick in the hand.



The rich, oiled-finish Turkish walnut is accented with delicate, yet effective, checkering upon the grip and fore-end.

The solid beauty is complemented by strong construction. With the 28 gauge weighing in at 6 lbs. 8.9 oz and the .410 at 6 lbs. 14.7 oz, the Zoli Pernice balances beautifully in the hand. In true Zoli style, the Pernice is built to be yours. The stock dimensions are designed to offer the owner the maximum canvas for customization. Once you decide the Zoli Pernice is right for you and the order is placed with a Zoli dealer, just wait for the call that your new bird hunting companion is ready for fitting.

The next step? A trip to their USA headquarters in Texas to have a complete

gunfitting done to make the Zoli Pernice truly an extension of yourself. The fitting and subsequent work is all included in the Zoli investment.

The efficacy of the Pernice doesn't stop in the field. To connect consistently in the woods and avoid dirty looks from your bird dog, a bit of cross-training is necessary. The Pernice is just as fun in the clays stand as it is in that aspen stand pushed last fall.

The longer, smooth swinging barrels make those 40-yard crossers as hittable as the short-window partridge simulations. The Zoli Pernice in 28 gauge and .410 is the perfect pairing of iconic bird hunting culture and effective clays shooting fun! Check out [zoliusa.com](http://zoliusa.com) today for more information on this perfect pairing! ■