

X SHOTGUNS

Beretta 694 & Fossari CRX9 BSR

X BBC SHOOTER

News presenter on the clays

X GUNDOGS

Training & buyers' guides

X RIFLES

Foxing and stalking

SPORTING Gun



**MASSIVE TOP
BINOCULARS
ROUNDUP**

SHOTGUNS • GUNDOGS • RIFLES • ESSENTIAL GEAR • SHOOTING ADVICE

NATHAN HALES

An interview with
the Olympic legend.
Guns, gold and glory

TIPS & TUTORIALS

A double portion of
Geoff Garrod, top
tips for female Guns,
gundog training, plus
walked-up rabbits

FEATURES & REVIEWS

Top 5 guns for the hide,
foxing essentials, deer
stalking advice, plus the
ATA Turqua on test

SPRING INTO ACTION

**HUNTING, SHOOTING AND CLAYS:
THE GREAT OUTDOORS AWAKENS**

APRIL 2025
£6.99



SPORTING-GUN.COM

FOSSARI CRX9 BSR

A relatively unknown Italian newcomer offers a robust upgrade for competition shooters keen to experiment with their next clay gun, says **Jonny Carter**



The gun weighs a meagre 8.5 lbs but still sits well between the hands

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

MANUFACTURER: Fossari
MODEL: CRX9 BSR
CALIBRE: 12 bore
BARREL LENGTH: 30in or 32in
CHAMBER: 3in
STOCK LENGTH: 14 1/2in
WEIGHT: 8.5 lbs
WEB: fossari.it/en/
PRICE: €4,980

Fossari is a name I was not really familiar with. I wasn't completely ignorant of it, though, having glimpsed one in a gun rack at a shoot in Texas, followed by a better look over one at the British Shooting Show. So I was excited when the opportunity arose for me to review one of these new Italian competition shotguns.

The gun sent was the Fossari CRX9 BSR, a competition over-and-under shotgun designed for a variety of clay disciplines. This gun is made in Italy in the well-known FAIR factory, better known for its affordable field guns and Lincoln branded range. When I discovered this it gave me a great deal more confidence, as these guys have been making guns for decades, and although they are at the cheaper end of the market they are well put together and reliable.

A new gun from a relatively unknown gunmaker with no track record would have been a little more daunting. The reason for the name change is clear – this gun is a considerable step up in quality and price, and Fossari wants it to carve its own niche in the market rather than be associated with its entry-level models. I don't see this as a bad thing, given they are good guns in their own right.

This gun does not resemble any FAIR shotgun at all and is built on a completely different action design, featuring a Boss-style lock with the two protruding lumps on the monobloc. This gives it the popular low, wide profile as seen on guns from Perazzi and Kolar.

This gun is slightly less expensive than those, but the only place this can be seen is in the slightly simpler machining and finishing on the balls of the action. It's a plainer gun for sure, with a black finish to the action, adorned only by some gold-coloured Fossari branding.

At the time of writing this gun is only available in 12-bore, with a few stock and barrel options. The test gun features the BSR rib, which is rib made from a lightweight and resistant aluminium alloy. This rib is fully adjustable, allowing shooters to fine-tune the point of impact and sight picture to their taste.

I initially brushed this off as pretty unnecessary, but when I came to shoot it I changed my mind. BSR ribbed barrels are available in 30in and 32in, both multichoked. Guns come with five chokes as standard, but a full range of eight Technichoke HPS chokes are available if you really want to fine-tune your patterns.

The look of that BSR rib is certainly progressive and I can see it intimidating a few shooters who may not want to draw attention to themselves. That said, there are heaps of high-rib guns on the clay-shooting circuit in the hands of some very capable shooters, as well as some pretty normal folk. So if you really like the way the gun looks and feels, don't worry too much about having to back up this pro-looking gun with pro-looking moves – they will come on their own with time and plenty of practice.

Being a gun with a higher rib, it does come with an adjustable comb on its Monte Carlo stock, which Fossari brands as the XR-Stock system. It's a very nicely engineered



All CRX9 models come with a detachable wigger whose parts are all well finished

adjustable comb that allows the very finest of adjustments with ease. The nicely figured stock is oil finished and comes with the sort of rubber buttpad that looks as though it should withstand the ravages of time.

All CRX9 models feature a detachable trigger. It's a single selectable trigger with mechanical change over, with great trigger breaks. Even if the action looks as if it has more simple machining, the trigger does not. All parts are finished to the highest standard, which gives me faith that Fossari has put the time and money where it counts.

The blade on the fixed trigger is a thing of beauty. It's nice and thin with lovely lines. It largely inconsequential I suppose, but in a market where most triggers are a bit lacklustre it stands out. There is an adjustable trigger option available, but I'd be loath to change it if it's not as refined as this one.

FIELD TEST

At 8lb 1oz this gun is a little lighter than I expected, but the heaviest of the Fossari range. It does sit between the hands well, though. In fact when I went to shoot it the first thing I noticed was that it was way faster than I imagined. The first bird, a fast quartering-away mild, was missed clean in front, and a trailing right-to-left looper had its leading edge chipped off. It hadn't felt that lively in the shop when I first picked it up and shouldered it.

This is good – it's easier to calm down a lively gun than it is to spice up a dead one. Rarely do I feel the need to add barrel weights for the way I shoot, but in this instance I would have considered them. Luckily I had the ShotKam in the bag so I bolted it on and the gun slowed down a little. I should emphasise that it wasn't bad without it and I had fun shooting clays off the trap arm with it in 'sport mode'.

I progressed through a few stations, having set up the comb to my preference and fixing the adjustable rib somewhere in the middle. The results were solid, as I found this gun very repeatable to shoot. The quality of the breaks was solid as well. The Technichoke HPS barrels are designed to give better patterns and lower recoil, and with Hull Sovereign 6.5 fibre wad cartridges I was ink-balling clays out



The action has been manufactured to a high standard, featuring a Boss-style lock with the two promising lumps on the mossblock.

at 30yd – and we all know what a confidence boost that is.

On my last station I stopped at a spot with five traps to shoot a few singles and have a play with the rib. This is where I got a little confused, as my usual setup would be to fix the comb a little higher and see a good amount of the rib in my peripheral vision. When I adjusted the comb to have it shooting at its highest – low at the muzzle and high at the breach – my sight picture was that of a flat-shooting gun.

I shoot a lot of guns over the course of the year and am relatively adaptable, so I called pull and missed a target straight over the top. Clearly the sight picture of a flat-shooting gun that actually patterns high would take a little getting used to.

I then adjusted the rib to its other extreme – high at the front and low at the back. I could see an enormous amount of rib, or at least that was the perception, tricking the brain into floating the clay more. As a consequence the pattern wasn't just

below neutral, resulting in smashing the bottom off a few targets initially.

This was fascinating, not only to develop my understanding of sight picture more, but also to see the way my gun movement changed between the two extremes of sight picture without changing the stock.

CONCLUSION

All in all the Fossari was a great experience. You have to admire the tenacity of any gunmaker entering the competition clay market. These guns get used much harder than a hunting gun and are usually treated with affection. I do believe this gun is well made enough to deserve a seat at the table and certainly shoots differently enough to offer something new to the market.

This gun would suit someone upgrading from their first standard sporting gun but doesn't yet want to commit to any dedicated style. They could buy it, shoot it, play with it and grow with it to discover their preferred style of shooting and preferred gun setup. ■

Experimenting with the rib was a real eye-opening experience in terms of sight picture.

