



# Griffin & Howe

Finest in Firearms Since 1923

## *The Amazing* **F.LLI BERTUZZI** *Collection*

*F.lli. Bertuzzi - Ali di Gabbiano*

The Zeus came in two formats. A normal sidelock ejector, if the word normal can really be applied to Bertuzzi sporting firearms, but the most extraordinary and rarest of all formats being the 'Ali di Gabbiano' or Gullwing.

Push forward the safety catch beyond the normal 'off' position and prepare to be surprised, delighted and amazed. The lockplates spring forward, to stand at 90 degrees to the action, revealing exquisitely detailed lockwork below. Bertuzzi called them 'Ali di Gabbiano' or 'Gullwings', although the term 'Flying Locks' is also sometimes used.

The lockwork itself is attached to an inner plate rather than the sideplate as on a normal sidelock.

Highly polished tumblers, engraved pinheads and gold detailing indicate that the Zeus is very much for show. Close the plates again and you simply can not see the join. So precise is the fitting, aided by skillful engraving, that it is almost impossible to tell the 'Ali di Gabbiano' Zeus from a conventional gun. If the side-by-side configuration is your preference, then the same feature can be seen on the 'Ali di Gabbiano' 'Venere', with its Holland & Holland style lockwork.

For gunmaking of this quality, only engraving by the very best will do. Over the years, the list of engravers who have worked on Bertuzzi guns reads like a 'Who's Who' of Italian engraving with Torcoli, Terzi, Giancarlo and Stefano Pedretti, Fracassi, Gianfranco Pedersoli, Dassa, Valerio Peli, Firmo Fracassi, Angelo Galeazzi and the world renowned studio, Creative Art, all having been employed at some time. In later years, Manrico Torcoli's signature appeared more than most, his distinctive 'fantasy' style a match for the technical tour de force of the gun.

Needless to say, work of this quality (and rarity) did and does not come cheap. Each new Bertuzzi was usually spoken for long before completion. Your best chance of seeing one today is by visiting the Griffin & Howe Showroom in Bernardsville or the Griffin & Howe ProShop Showroom at Hudson Farm in New Jersey, just one hour west of New York City.

Guy Bignell, current Griffin & Howe President, has a long association with the Bertuzzi brand and has managed to secure a number of Bertuzzi shotguns over the last few years. Since 2006, Griffin & Howe has been in the privileged position of having had thirty-one Bertuzzi sporting firearms pass through their portal. Given the diminutive total output of Remigio & Elio during their career, this is privilege indeed.

The total production of 'Ali di Gabbiano', side-by-side and over-under is believed to be twelve. Two are believed to have remained in the care of their makers, Elio and Remigio.