

# Upscale Guns and Glass

*From London to Germany to Japan to the Dakotas, high-end guns are doing very well.*

by Terry Wieland

There was a time, in the not too distant past, when writing a review of guns and optics was a pretty simple matter. There were half a dozen domestic gun makers and about as many foreign companies that really mattered; in optics, the subject was limited to riflescopes and binoculars, with maybe a nod toward spotting scopes, and there were only three or four players in the game. What's more, new models were few and far between.

Not so today.

There was more activity in business in North America in 1995 than any other time in history, bar no culprit—if we can call it that—nology. Computerized manufacturing revolutionized the gun business the way it has the auto industry and the a growing number of small manufacturing specialized lines, mentoring the big firms that are producing a mind-boggling array of models that with every passing day.

As for optics, there has never

Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Company, which makes the new A.H. Fox guns, is adding to the line. So far they have been available only in 20-gauge, but the company is now starting to build the gun in 16- and 28-gauge and .410. Again, prototypes are expected to be ready for the 1996 SHOT Show.

CSM has also signed a deal with U.S. Repeating Arms to make the Winchester Model 21 side-by-side, an American classic and the last of the great American doubles to be in continuous production. Henceforth, if you order a Model 21 from U.S.R.A.C., it will be made by Tony Galazan and his craftsmen in Connecticut. If you've seen one of the Fox guns, you know that is not bad news at all.

Galazan is also offering an over/under modeled on the Fabbri for around \$40,000. Altogether, 1995 has been a pretty good year for the American double gun—probably the best since 1945.

One of the abiding regrets of my shooting career is that I did not buy a Krieghoff competition gun with

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