



DOVE HUNTING At Los Chanaires Lodge

by Nick Sisley

As a flock of doves zipped fast from right to left, their altitude constantly changing as they winged toward whatever their intended destination was, I sort of lost focus — came out of my zone. Instead of concentrating my stare on one of the eared dove's heads, I began thinking about the winning Powerball number. I was thinking if I ever hit for all those Powerball millions, this is the place I'd like to be, or one like it, spending dollar after dollar on the local RD shotshells, shooting shell after shell at these flitting South American targets, enjoying the good life that abounds in this distant land. Needless to say, with such wonderful thoughts as I was pulling the trigger, I had no hope of the shot pattern connecting, and it did not.

So, back to hard focus, try and get back in the so-called zone. It was easy to do because the targets were nonstop. I know many of you have not shot in Argentina or Uruguay or Bolivia, but you have no doubt read about it. The difference between actually shooting

If You Are Going

My trip to Los Chanaires and Sierra Brava Lodge was arranged by Jeri Booth at Detail Company Adventures in Houston, Texas (800-292-2213, DetailCompanyAdventures.com). Los Chanaires is also one of the lodges serviced by Global Sporting Safaris, Inc. (868-850-HUNT, GSSafaris.com). See their ad on the next page.

Check this and past issues of *Shotgun Sports* for other quality tour guides who specialize in South American wingshooting adventures. You owe it to yourself to experience dove hunting in South America first-hand!

in one of those places and reading about it — well, that difference has to be monumental. But let me see if I can rise to that task maybe just a little.

The sky is black with birds. I mean really black. I know you can't imagine that since you have never seen it. Yet, I've seen a huge flock wing across the sun and almost block out the rays — and not for just an instant. Side-by-side

shotguns with splinter foreends are useless here; even when wearing shooting gloves, the barrels get so hot you will singe your fingers. Some ill-designed semiautos simply fail to work — unable to withstand the constant pounding. In one short morning of shooting many years ago, one fellow I was with had his shoulder bruised so badly he never pulled the trigger the rest of the trip. He was shooting a 12-gauge lightweight over & under. Big mistake. Better bring your favorite low-recoiling shotgun, your shooting glasses, your ear protection and more, preparing for the worst — or rather the best — wing-shooting you can ever imagine.

In case you are not up-to-date on your Spanish, "chanaires" is the name of a tree. It does not grow very tall — maybe 15 feet or so — yet it spreads out quite a bit. It is adorned with its share of sharp spikes. This type of tree makes for ideal dove nesting and resting habitat, so maybe now you can guess where the lodge's name comes from. Los Chanaires Lodge sits right in the middle of 1,500 acres of chanaires trees, perfect dove nesting and resting habitat.

www.shotgunsportsmagazine.com

THERE ARE A THOUSAND REASONS TO COME TO LOS CHAÑARES...

HERE ARE A FEW MORE...

- All Hunting within 10 Minutes of the Lodge
- Finest Quality Meals and Lodging
- Best Hospitality Management Team in the Business
- Only 60 Miles from Cordoba Airport



"Los Chanaires is a paradise for those who cherish the sporting life."

—F.M. Gafford, Florida

There are a multitude of options in Argentina.

We proudly offer you the best.
Call us today and treat yourself to
the finest dove hunt on the planet!



Global Sporting Safaris, Inc.
(888) 850-HUNT or (307) 235-4650
Contact Dick at Ext. 2 or Colter at Ext. 6
www.DoveHunting.us or www.GSSafaris.com

A Unique Experience

When I was dropped off at my stand at the edge of a small sunflower patch planted in the middle of the chanaras grove for my first afternoon of shooting, I could not believe how short the ride was, so I retorted, "I could have walked this far!" The lodge was maybe 300 yards away. Accustomed to many long drives to reach where the doves were in South America, I was flabbergasted that I could almost see the lodge from where I loaded my gun.

But load up I did — with 21-gram RD loads going into the chambers of my 28-gauge Caesar Guerini Summit Sporting. It wore 32" barrels (I like longer barrels for sporting clays and dove shooting), and the extended chokes were Improved Cylinder and Light Modified. I had tighter chokes in my pocket, but within a few shots I could see I would not need them. I also knew from previous shooting at other locations prior to my stay at Los Chanaras, as well as patterning I had done at home, this IC screw-in was one dynamite choke.

While we had breakfast, lodge personnel climbed into this tower and used binoculars to see where the doves were concentrated, then that's where they took us to hunt.

I had already shot at two other lodges in the Cordoba area of Argentina prior to my Los Chanaras visit, plus taken a huge red stag at a third, so my shooting eye was fairly well-tuned. Aside from my distracting Powerball thoughts, I got back in the zone with hard focus and started picking off dove after dove.

The birds were not only going right to left, my favorite shot, they also offered every shot variety worth considering. I shot with both eyes open using my right eye only, and even shot a few left-handed. But then I got back on the Powerball-type thoughts, this time wondering how well I'd do with a Krieghoff K-20 (very highly engraved, of course). As the sun waned in the west, the shooting action became even more furious, as the late-coming doves knew they had to find their overnight



Dropping 28-gauge shells into my Caesar Guerini Summit Sporting to face the next wave of doves.



INCREASE YOUR INTEREST RATE



\$150*
IN FREE
AMMO

Citori
LOCKED & LOADED

\$150*
TOWARDS
TRADE-IN

**NATIONAL
TRADE-IN
DAYS**

Citori® 625 Sporting



BROWNING

The Best There Is

BROWNING.COM

Investing in a new Browning Citori is a surefire way to a sporting good time. Well-known for wearing in, not out, the Citori has a hard-earned reputation for reliability with performance to match. Built by skilled craftsmen from the toughest materials, a Citori is sure to give you a high rate of clay-crushing return over the long term. Increase your interest in shooting with a new Citori today. Visit browning.com to see the full line of Citori shotguns and get more information on Browning's Locked and Loaded and National Trade-In Days promotions.

For only
9¢

a day, you get
12 big issues

That's pretty darned cheap for shooting advice from big names like Bassham, Batha, Bender, Brezny, Cantu, Carlisle, Clapper, Dr. Keyes, Loveless, Miller, Reeves, Webb and Williams to name a few!



Shotgun Sports
MAGAZINE

P.O. Box 6810 • Auburn, CA 95604
Orders Call Toll-Free

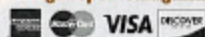
800-676-8920

Questions?
(530) 889-2220

Fax **(530) 889-9106**

Email: custserv@shotgunsportsmagazine.com

www.shotgunsportsmagazine.com



I'd like a 1-year subscription to Shotgun Sports
(12 BIG action-packed issues)

U.S. Subscription	Canadian
<input type="checkbox"/> \$32.95 - 1 year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39.95 - 1 year
<input type="checkbox"/> \$61.95 - 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$69.95 - 2 years
<input type="checkbox"/> \$91.95 - 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$102.95 - 3 years
(U.S. funds ONLY; other countries - \$70)	

New Subscription Renewal
 Payment Enclosed Bill Me

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
MC/Visa/Discover/AMEX _____
3-Digit Code _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

resting spot before darkness took over. My 32" barrels became hotter yet, and I tried ever harder to get back into my sharp focus zone.

I was almost thankful when I heard the pick-up van coming. I did say "almost" thankful. On the short drive back, I found my shooting companions had enjoyed themselves as much as I did. One shooter was Alessandro Vitale, a restaurateur from Baltimore, along with his friend Brian Kavanagh, a bank manager, and a veterinarian from South Carolina, Dr. Ham Hamilton. They were shooting the lodge's rental Benelli semiautos.



Inside the lodge at Los Chanares, you'll find all the comforts of home.

The time was late March, and we would be the season's last shooters, as Los Chanares shuts down in April and May. Interestingly, this downtime gives lodge personnel some vacation plus a chance to repair equipment, refurbish the lodge where it might require a bit of attention, whatever. I also learned in April and May the doves in this area start flying about an hour north, as this is when crops are maturing in that part of Cordoba Province.

What this lodge prides itself on is not only great shooting but the fact it is all very close at hand. First, there's the

already mentioned 1,500 acres of chanares nesting trees around the lodge, but owner David Perez also leases 10,000 acres of farmland near the lodge. The chanares trees are hunted the first afternoon and last morning of the gunners' stay, and the 10,000 leased acres, only 10 minutes away, are hunted the rest of the time.

Dinner was a great repast, with famous Argentine beef galore — and the very best cuts. Even restaurateur Alessandro Vitale was impressed. We were all impressed with the wine — red malbecs and cabernets — as well.

ready to board the vans. As we were dining, the lodge crew had been at work. One climbed the high tower shown in the accompanying photo (see page 28), as from that high perch a fellow with binoculars can see which areas the doves are using the most — so that's where the van would drop our quartet off. We separated by 100 and 200 yards so we were plenty far enough apart.

The shooting began, and barrels were soon too hot to touch. Keeping Powerball thoughts at bay, I tried to get in the so-called "shooting zone," and stay in it as long as possible, negative thoughts blocked out, enjoyment of the moment uppermost in my head, allowing instinct and muscle memory to power the light little over & under — first to the right, then to the left, next in a tough curving path — all the time with my stare zeroed in not at merely the bird but the bird's head, even the bird's eye when the shot was close enough. It's a wonderful feeling to be in that "zone," being able to make runs of six, seven, ten or more birds straight before one shot is just too challenging.

Finally, it was time for lunch. At most lodges, the distance to the birds is great so you have lunch in the field,

instead of returning to the lodge. I've never regretted an hour's drive to the shooting because the shooting practically anywhere "down there" is so fantastic. But at Los Chanares, there's no need for lunch in the field since the lodge is always only minutes away. After lunch, you can go to your room to relax and there will be time to use the lodge's internet connection to check your e-mail or e-mail your spouse or significant other, telling them how tough you are having it.

Before you know it, there's a knock on your door and it's time to grab what little gear you will need and head for the waiting van. There's more shooting to do — a lot more shooting. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it. Try to keep Powerball thoughts at bay, however. **SS**

Nick Sisley is a veteran of approximately 50 shotgun trips to South America. Those trips started in 1972, when the Cauca Valley and Magdalena River marshes were in their heyday in Colombia — with eared doves in the valley and blue-winged teal in the marsh. His first shot Argentina in 1979 and has shot there numerous times since, including traversing most of this huge country, and he has shot extensively in Uruguay, as well as Bolivia. His experience shooting doves, ducks, geese, pigeons and peritz in South America is unmatched, and he would be glad to e-mail back and forth with any of you contemplating your own fabulous wingshooting trip. Nick can be contacted at nicksisley@hotmail.com.

OUTDOOR CLASSICS

CANVAS LOOK WITHOUT THE WEIGHT
Constructed of sturdy, water-repellent, densely-woven waxed cotton



Shooting Gear Bag

Double-zipped large main compartment has two removable dividers and hard bottom for extra support. Large front and two side pockets provide plenty of extra storage for all your equipment and supplies. 10"(H) x 15 1/2"(L) PGEAR1\$95.00*



Shell Apron with Belt

Don't like wearing a vest when you shoot, the Shell Apron is for you! With two belted pockets and 2" adjustable belt, it keeps shells conveniently close and leaves hands free.

PAPRO1\$22.00*



Lightweight 4-Box Shell Carrier

Lightweight Carrier can hold standard and magnum loads with ease. Hard bottom provides extra support and protection. Light enough to carry all day! 8 1/2"x5 1/2"x5".

P4BOX1\$23.00*

*For delivery charges and ordering information, see Order Form on page 54 in this issue.

GET \$1000 OFF
ON A BRAND
NEW Z-SPORT!



WHEN YOU TRADE IN
YOUR OLD GUN.



STARTING AT \$5,300
BEFORE YOUR TRADE-IN



TRIGGER A GREAT DEAL
ON A ZOLI!

SIMPLY BRING ANY WORKING
FIREARM INTO YOUR LOCAL
GUN DEALER AND YOU GET
\$1,000 TOWARDS THE
PURCHASE OF YOUR NEW
ZOLI Z-SPORT.

ZOLI Z-SPORT
\$4,300 NET
WITH TRADE-IN

AVAILABLE IN 12, 20, 28
GAUGE OR 20/28 GAUGE
COMBINATIONS WITH EITHER
30" OR 32" BARRELS

ZGUNS@ROCHESTER.RR.COM

585-394-1271
WWW.ZOLI.IT
DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

CALL NOW
THIS IS A LIMITED TIME OFFER.