



**AYA DE LUXE  
NO 2 SIDE-  
BY-SIDE**  
◆ RRP: £12,900  
◆ ASI Ltd,  
Alliance House,  
Snape,  
Saxmundham,  
Suffolk, IP17 1SW  
◆ 01728 688555  
◆ a-s-i.co.uk

### TECHNICAL

AyA has long used the pattern of the Holland Royal as the inspiration for its sidelocks. Continental manufacturers making side-by-sides tend to copy the Holland rather than the Purdey design because it is more straightforward to make and, critically, simpler to regulate with its Southgate over-centre cam ejector-work. AyA has had huge success with its sidelocks. With actions made from forgings, they have proven themselves extremely reliable. The test guns have the usual AyA features, including disc-set strikers, replaceable hinge pins and chopper-lump barrels – in this case proofed for steel shot and choked at 15 thou constriction right and left. Steel shot does not need any more constriction to pattern well. It is a mistake to over-choke it. I also tend to use a pellet one size bigger now rather than two. These guns have a longer forcing cone better suited to steel shot, but will happily digest conventional lead loads as well.



### SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS

Being involved with the specification, I was excited to actually try the AyAs. Aesthetically, it would be hard to better them at the price. Dry handling was good. Balance was on the hinge pins even with the 30in barrels, and the weight was ideal. The first bird was centred, and, happily, so were the next half-dozen, swapping the guns every few shots. On tougher stuff, the AyAs continued to perform well. The  $\frac{3}{8}$  chokes in both barrels (near ideal for steel) produced good kills with lead too. Even on the 120ft tower, the guns continued to do the business. The combs, a little fuller than the AyA norm, were fine. The extra cast suited. Ejection was excellent. For the price – which is not insignificant – these offer a lot. They are a 10th of the cost of the English equivalent, but would still stand happily in more exalted company.

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