



An impressive new sidelock from William Evans. “With our new gun, it’s no longer a question of whether you buy a gun or a Ferrari – now you can have both,” says Robin Hawes with a wicked smile. But his point is made – the new William Evans Pall Mall with a starter price of **£10,000**, is a proper handcrafted side-by-side sidelock which will not break the bank.

It is the result of a joint venture between Spanish gunmaker Grulla, makers of high quality shotguns and rifles since 1932, and William Evans, who of course have also been around a while – established in 1883. They are known as makers of best English guns, but their 2008 launch of the St. James, a sideplated over-under costing £10,000 (plus VAT), has apparently brought many new customers through their doors at the main showroom in St. James, London and their Bisley retail outlet.

However, gunroom manager Alastair Philips explained: “Despite the increasing popularity of the over-under design and their increasing acceptability in the field, most of our customers who shoot game still prefer side-by-side and many are looking for a new high quality shotgun which can be made to their own specification, at an affordable price, comparable with that of an older best London sidelock.”

Though a big name in Spain, Grulla remain largely unrecognised in the British market, a fact seized upon by William Evans Bisley manager Robin Hawes, who has worked closely with Grulla in the production of the new gun. “They have been excellent and we are delighted with the result. All the basic manufacturing process takes place in their factory, but all blacking and chequering work is carried out in England by the same craftsmen who work on the St James and our other models.”

The gun features best quality wood and options such as barrel lengths of 25”-32”, overall weight from 6lb 8oz to 7lb, and extras to include exhibition grade wood and Teague chokes. Alastair Philips added: “It has created a great deal of interest among our existing customers.”