

Mr Pest Control - **Fred Carter's back**, so sit down, tune in and listen!

# Shooting SPORTS

AIRGUNS • FIREARMS • SHOTGUNS



SEPTEMBER 2007

**Confused?**

We explain  
Swarovski's TDS-4i  
Ballistic reticule

## Heaven 17

Savage's latest 17HMR;  
the thumbhole-stocked BTVS  
Shoots as good as it looks...

### Airgun Hunter

Assess your skills  
To improve your game  
We show you how

### Hunting in Europe

We see what  
Opportunities Croatia  
Has to offer you



#### Torture test II

John Bezzant  
Puts the HW100K  
Through its paces



#### Big Cat

Fabarm Lion H38  
A 12-bore semi  
With style and ability



# Pay back Time...



High seat in winter, at least it has a roof...

**Bored with your normal British quarry species, we bet you are! Then how about something a little different? Join Pete Moore as he prepares for a trip to Croatia to sample the delights of wild boar hunting**

**Q** - What's, big, black and hairy, travels at around 25 mph and is as tough as old boots? A - Wild boar. Apart from being what I consider a great looking animal and a real hunting challenge, the boar is one of the few game species that has managed to elude me over the years. I've jacked up hunts and on each occasion something has gone wrong, due to flights, logistics or availability. Only once did I get the chance but declined, as shooting them in a tiny paddock at point blank range was not my idea of a good days sport... My only contact with these animals goes back to Germany in 1974 when I was in the army. Unlucky for me I walked in on a sow and her piglets, and she took extreme exception to this intrusion and decided to have a go at me. Despite my size you might have been impressed how quick I made it up a nearby tree,

while she did her best to bring it down... Without doubt a magnificent animal in every way and one that you should be accorded a lot of respect too.

Given we are technically and unpalatably a European nation, there's a lot of hunting going on across the channel that is well worth considering. High on this list in my opinion is wild boar, as we have little access to these sorts of animal in the UK, although it would appear that our population is growing and is hunted, and eventually they may be as common as deer, which I look forward to. So really this is the start of an occasional series on hunting possibilities in Europe, as to what's available and how practices and laws that relate to the British shooter abroad will affect what we do.

## Tomo Svetic

Ever keen to get my first boar and also try a country I had never been to, I made contact with Tomo Svetic the director of Croatian-based Artemis Hunting Ltd. Tomo is a passionate hunter and a member of the Croatian Hunting Association (CHA) for the last 17 years. He has worked in Croatia as a part-time professional hunter (PH) and as a guide for domestic and foreign hunters for 10 years. Coming to London two years ago he decided to open an agency for hunting holidays in his country, but HQ is in England, as he feels this is where his target market is. He has a lot of contacts and works independently in more than 20 hunting areas. He also travels with

Wild boar, that's what I'm going to Croatia for, let's hope I get lucky. However as a hunter's destination it appears the country has a lot to offer



Just check out the rack on that red stag, it's reckoned that some of Europe's top game trophy animals can be found in Croatia



his clients, spending every hour of their hunting holiday with them.

Artemis does not just specialise in wild boar as they also offer other species of both the furred and feathered varieties. As can be imagined there's a lot to be doing and add to that the fun and excitement of a foreign country, which you don't have to sit in a plane for 12 hours and spend a fortune to get to...

Tomo had this to say: "We endeavour to organize multi-faceted hunting trips where you can enjoy not just the hunting, but also the socializing, the exchange of experiences, and the food and drink. We strive to organize holidays based on individual needs and will try to meet specific requests, including additional activities such as clay pigeon shooting. Due to the small distance between mountains and the coast, our hunting holidays are also suitable for families, as in some areas the beach is only 40 minutes drive away from the hunting grounds. Thus, while you hunt, your family can relax on the beach and enjoy the famous Croatian coastline."

## Croatia?

I confess I know nothing about Croatia, but here's the low down. It's located in Southern Europe and is a Mediterranean country. It borders Slovenia and Hungary in the north, Serbia in the east and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the south. It also has a long marine border with Italy in the Adriatic Sea.

It has a population of about 4.4 million people. Over 90% is Croat (the majority of whom are Roman Catholics), but there are also Serbian, Bosnian, Hungarian and Italian minorities. The main population centres are Zagreb, the capital, Osijek in the northwest, and the ports of Rijeka, and Split in the south. The official language is Croatian, which is written in Latin script.

The climate along the Adriatic coast, offers warm dry summers and mild winters. In the interior it's more continental with hot summers and cold, snowy winters. The terrain is varied, and includes extensive mountain chains, fertile lowlands and a beautiful coastline with numerous islands. This means that it is possible to hunt for different types of game, and in different regions, including the islands. The type of game one can hunt in Croatia includes wild boar, brown bear, chamois, mouflon, all types of European deer (including roe, red and fallow) and birds such as woodcock, red partridge, pheasant and quail.

Artemis organises hunting in both central and coastline areas, which are 1-2 hours drive from Zagreb airport (Gorski Kotar and Lika), near the cities of Karlovac, Gospić and Senj but on special requests they can arrange hunting anywhere in the country. These regions were selected mainly because they are populated by large numbers

of animals and the trophies there are among the biggest in the world.

There you can hunt non-crossed wild boar, brown bear, mouflon, chamois, deer, woodcock and see wolves and lynx. 80% of the area is made up of hills and mountains covered by beech and oak woods. The 4th biggest boar (149.50 CIC points) and the 3rd biggest chamois in the world were shot in the mountain of Velebit, which has the biggest population of non-fenced mouflon in Europe and very often these are silver or gold medal trophies. Average bag in two days of driven boar hunting is 15 animals and every 6th (approximately) is in the medals. This is amongst the best rate in the world. The brown bear population is high, up to 1000 animals, and trophies are also amongst the biggest in the world (up to 510 CIC points).

Boar is usually organised from a high seat or as driven game. The killing zones are: head, shoulder or behind the shoulder but a pinning shot, or high shoulder, are recommended placements for larger animals. For driven game trained dogs and beaters are used. All hunters must have red tape on their hat, a red cap or a red waistcoat to prevent accidents. For stalking or high seat hunting that is not required.

## Legal, General & Travel

As with any foreign country rules for the visiting hunter differ. Artemis will sort out all your paperwork etc., and require the following: address, DOB, FAC and passport number, details about the rifle (number and calibre). You will then get issued a license for hunting in Croatia, which is valid for 1 year.

Hunters can bring a maximum of two rifles or shotguns, 25-rounds for the rifle and 150 shells for the shotgun. By law, shotguns can be used for birds, vermin, hare, rabbits, and boar, with slugs being used, up to 40 metres. Semi auto rifle, semi auto shotgun and combo guns can be used. Lamps, night vision and moderators are not permitted.

For shooting roe deer and the young of the larger species bullets must be a minimum of .224" calibre and weight a minimum of 3.24 grams (50-grains). Energy requirement is 1000 joules or about 750 ft/lbs. For axis deer, chamois and mouflon it's 4.80 grams (74-grains) or 2000 Joules (1474 ft/lbs). For red or fallow deer and boar - 8.20 grams (127-grains) and 2500 Joules (1843 ft/lbs) and for brown bear - 11.80grams (182-grains and 3500 Joules (2580 ft/lbs). As can be seen the Croatians have their own views on what constitutes enough gun for the job.

I had been considering a number of calibres and gun types with a semi-auto shotgun with slug as top choice, though either my 30-06 or 300 WSM would be well up for the job. However, and quite by chance, that all changed after a conversation with Peter Brass the MD



Tight country no doubt, imagine that with boar charging through it on a driven hunt?



A good day's bag four nice roe, two boars and what looks like a red hind



Getting prepared for a driven hunt, note the blaze orange safety jackets, after all you don't want to cop a 9.3mm by mistake



Mouflon, now there's a fine looking trophy and another hard hunt



of Krieghoff, who kindly offered me the use of one of their Classic double rifles in 9.3x74R. If this was going to be my first boar hunt, then what better than a design made for the job in a calibre that is considered by many to be the ultimate for boar? A call to Swarovski got me one of their new Z6i 1-6 x 24 EE scopes to go on top. Currently I'm sorting out ammo but it looks like Lapua is in the frame.

## Enough Gun

Tomo has this to say about the subject: "For boar shooting I recommend a minimum calibre of 270 Win with Barnes bullets or similar, but a .30" cal or larger is better. During driven boar hunting you have to shoot quickly and lots of times, as it is not easy to place the bullet in the right place or to avoid small branches, grass and other obstacles. In that case you have to use a heavier bullet that's less sensitive to obstacles, and one that offers good penetration and weight retention.

"In 0.30" and 8 mm a 165-grain Barnes-X should be the minimum, but 180-220 grain for driven boar is better. In 180-grain I highly recommend PPU Grom, Barnes, Naturalis, RWS Evolution, Nosler Partition or Fail Safe. But in 200-220 grains my choices are Norma Oryx and Vulkan, Lapua Mega, Sako Hammerhead or similar. The 9,3 mm calibres should be the maximum you need and are probably the best for the job with their big, soft-nosed and slow bullets.

"Shotgun slugs are a different case. By law, 40 meters should be the maximum range for boar but in practice it is not like that. Driven boar is very fast and unpredictable and using a range finder is not an option. 80% of the boars are shot at around 30 meters, but sometimes you might have to go out to 100 m. Slugs like Brenneke and Gualandi or sabot-types like Winchester Gold Partition and Sauvestre Balle Fleche do the job at that distance using a 12 bore. In some areas shotgun/slug is not permitted but usually they are commonly used. Before you decide which type of slug to use, try a selection to see what your gun likes."

If you prefer game birds and wing shooting then Croatia's your oyster...



## Travel & Accommodation

There are several airlines that fly from London to Croatia, but Tomo highly recommends Croatia Airlines because of their service and price. They will carry your guns and have agreed to give a discount to clients. Artemis can book a flight with Croatia Airlines if requested. Prices vary but are usually up to £160 for a return fare. Flights depart on Thursday at 10:50 from Heathrow and arrive in Zagreb at 14:00, with a duration of 2hours 15 minutes. The return departs Zagreb at 14:05 on Monday and lands in Heathrow at 15:30 local time. Once in country, transport is arranged for you.

Accommodation is usually in hotels but sometimes it might be private houses or log cabins. Accommodation is shared in clean and comfortable rooms and meals are organized there. Breakfast and dinner are served in the accommodation, but lunch is usually in the woods, between drives. Drinks are free only between drives and during hunting but they are very cheap in restaurants and hotels.

Packages can be tailored to suit and as with all things related to trophy hunting - the better the animal you shoot the more it will cost you. However, for driven boar Artemis has what I think is not a bad entry level offer for a party of eight shooters.

For £1100, you get the following:

- All flights with (Croatia Airlines)
- Transfer to hunting area and back to airport
- Four nights
- Full board
- Three days hunting
- Trophies
- Third party insurance

If it's a larger party (13+) then a discount is applicable. Generally you pay half the fee before you go and the other half at the end of the trip. Also if the day wasn't successful and no boar shot, that day will be charged only up to £50 per hunter, or the hunt was cancelled due to the weather that day will not be charged as well.

Artemis operates in 20 estates with highest standards and recommend booking at least 8 months in advance for

driven boar and 2 months for stalking or high seat. Croatia is a popular hunting destination so it's better to plan ahead.

My trip is planned for the end of November, which will give me time to sort out the Krieghoff and get in some practice on moving targets, which I know I need. I have to say that I'm really looking forward to seeing the country and what Artemis can offer. But most of all I hope like hell that I manage to get a boar or two, as that will be another notch on my hunting bed post so to speak. This time I'm armed and dangerous; so it's the boars that better climb the trees. Well you never know...

**Contact: Artemis Hunting Ltd (Tomo Svetic), 07795 084055, [www.artemis-hunting.com](http://www.artemis-hunting.com)**

*My thanks to: Peter Brass (MD) - H. Krieghoff GmbH Hunting and Sporting Guns, [www.krieghoff.de](http://www.krieghoff.de)  
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Christine Percy - Swarovski UK, 01737 856805  
Edward Horton - Viking Arms Ltd, 01423 780810  
Lapua ammunition and La Crosse boots*



It's plain to see that game is plentiful in Croatia



Chamois is another exotic breed for us Brits, but you'll need to be fit to get in shooting range of this elusive mountain goat



You can also hunt bear, but like some specialist African species you will have to pay top dollar for your pleasure



Like all of Europe, hunting is taken very seriously and traditions strictly observed