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Kit review: Hersh Trinity Race carbon



Hersh handmakes its carbon frames in Italy

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Handmade. Italian. Two words that make every cyclists' heart beat a little faster. For decades Italian frame-builders have been

the renowned sovereign of the bike production world, welding and bending tubes into works of art. The arrival of carbon fibre in to the cycling world has damaged the presence and appreciation of steel masterpieces. As more companies move to the far east in search of cheaper production rates, there is a growing gap for what once was the pinnacle of bike aesthetics; a handbuilt Italian frame.

Hersh bikes are a new, not particularly Italian sounding frame builders who manufacture bikes by hand in Italy. The name is an acronym for History, Energy, Research, Sport and High Level. “Hersh are vastly different to mainstream bike production companies, we have an aggressive price point to compete, which funds the manufacturing of the frames, we don’t have a huge marketing budget to fund, it’s about delivering the best bikes we can possibly make to the customer” says Ben Higgins of Rosa Sport, the UK Distributor for Hersh. The company offers fully customisable frames and also any paint job the customer requests, so there’s the potential for every bike to be unique. Every single aspect of Hersh frames are hand crafted in Italy. “Mass-produced frames from the far east mix carbon and resin in a mould and there’s a lack of quality control. At Hersh we run the carbon fibres exactly the way we want and we cut tubes to the exact specification, which makes frames lighter and stiffer than our competitors.” Rosa Sport liaise with customers finding out their riding style, what they want from their new bike and what their budget is before measuring them up and sending all the details to Italy for production.

Hersh produce two stock frames as well as the custom option, the Trinity Race and the Speed. They were kind enough to send a Trinity Race to On Your Bike for testing to prove that the new Italian kid on the block knows a thing or two about bikes.

The Trinity Race is a pedigree mile-eater. The long headtube, thin chainstays and the gigantic round downtube signal that this bike is made for comfort and with the use of Toray T800 carbon, this bike is also very stiff. Toray T800 carbon is also used to build various aircraft, and is the only carbon that’s accredited for use in the Boeing 777. This grade of material, coupled with an experienced and talented frame builder should produce a near perfect carbon bike.

From the look of the Trinity Race, it’s clearly never been near a wind-tunnel and the bike is all the better for it. The frame alone tips the scales at 860g for a medium, and the full build with Shimano Ultegra and 40mm Ambrosio tubulars managed a very competitive 6.9kg.

The Trinity Race’s weight does not come as a compromise to stiffness. The bike cruises around 30kph with ease, but as soon as the chain moves down the cassette and the revolutions increase, the Trinity Race comes alive. The bike rapidly picks up speed and out of the saddle the bottom bracket refuses to budge. No twitchiness in corners and an even balance when descending all give an overwhelmingly solid ride.

In terms of aesthetics, the version Hersh sent On Your Bike is not remarkable, but the classic geometry gives the bike a subtle

elegance which will turn the heads of those who know what they're looking for. The colourway of this Trinity Race, gloss silver, does little to raise the heart rate, but the option to have a double paint layer of matt, then gloss on top for an extra £100 should appeal to vanity urges and opens an almost unlimited number of colour options. The bike doesn't have a clear defining look that many 'super' bikes have but the hour glass profile of the seat stays reinforce the beauty of the frame.

The Trinity Race is a powerhouse, built for long days in the saddle with enough kick to match any race-focused machine. If this stock frame can impress as much as it did, the results from a fully custom option should be astounding.

Summary: A handmade, Italian bike that won't break the bank. It sounds too good to be true, but it's not. The Hersh Trinity Race is proof of that.

Hersh Trinity Race

4.5 / 5

£2,100 (frameset)

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