

# Bikes of the year



In the end, though, picking 2007's Bikes of the Year came down to determining whether the machines scored highly in two hugely important areas – performance and value. With the former we simply wanted to see how good the bike was at doing what it was designed to do when compared to other machines at the same price and in the same sector. The latter was even easier – how much bike do you get for your cash.



## year

### RUNNER UP

Van Nicholas Amazon triple £1669

[www.vannicholas.com](http://www.vannicholas.com)

The Amazon has to be the most versatile bike we have come across to date. Simply swap the Continental 28mm road tyres for knobbly cyclocross rubber and you have the perfect tool for blasting



# Touring Bikes of the year



### WINNER

Van Nicholas Amazon £1669

[www.vannicholas.com](http://www.vannicholas.com)

A practical touring bike that blends strength and an excellent ride quality, with the bonus of no paint to scratch.

### Tourers de force

Another trend of 2007 was towards touring bikes with the 'lite' suffix. These lighter-than-ever tourers are essentially cyclocross machines with braze-ons for racks, mudguards and water bottles. They're still capable of lugging tents and belongings over the steepest cols but their thinner, lighter tubing and higher bottom brackets bring a sense of pace and fun absent from some of the sturdier, more traditional touring bikes. One of our favourites in 2007 was the titanium Shimano 105 triple-equipped Van Nicholas Amazon at £1669. Titanium is ideal for touring bikes because, while the material is tough it also does an impressive job of soaking bumps. Looking back, 2007 has been a great year for all cyclists. And from what we've seen so far, 2008 is already shaping up nicely...