

The Altitude is a classy modern take on the classic steel ride



GENESIS ALTITUDE 30

£1566
Complete bike

This sweetly sprung singletracker is a joy to ride

Genesis is one of several UK brands with a quality steel singletracker in its line-up. The Altitude 30 benefits from competitive pricing and the latest components.

The frame

Reynolds 853 has been the pinnacle of steel tubing for years now. Not only is it light and strong in raw form but it increases in strength where it's welded, allowing even more refined tubing profiles. While the Altitude only uses 853 main tubes, tapering cro-mo rear stays continue steel's spirited spring right through to the classic rear end, complete with cowed drop-outs.

As you'd hope for a UK designed frame, vast mud room, bolt mounts for a down tube mudguard and forward facing seat slot are all here.

The kit

Genesis has got the kit spot on too. RockShox's new 120mm travel Reba with Maxle Lite screw-thru 20mm axle is a superb fork. The Race model gets Floodgate low-speed compression damping adjustment compared to the Whyte's SL fork. XT is still a benchmark trail groupset and SLX hubs on DT rims create a decent all-round wheelset. The basic compound Continental tyres can be slippery when wet though, and while

Cowed drop-outs complete the look of a classic steel steed



the own-brand finishing kit works fine, it won't please brand snobs.

The ride

It's getting harder to build steel frames strong enough to pass the latest safety standards without making them heavy or killing their distinctive supple spring. However, the Genesis is a total joy to ride.

It loads up and then whips you out of corners. It launches drops and hops with infectious agility and even seems to stick better where alloy frames scatter across rocks. It shrugs through rough stuff and catches landings smoother too, which keeps comfort and enthusiasm levels high even on marathon rides.

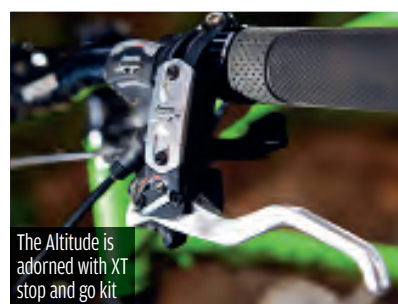
While the back end whips about,

GEOMETRY

TOP TUBE LENGTH 23in
SEAT TUBE LENGTH 17.5in
HEAD ANGLE 70.3°
SEAT ANGLE 73.3°
BB HEIGHT 12.2in
CHAINSTAY LENGTH 16.7in

SPEC CHECK

PRICE £1565.95
SIZES 16in, 17.5in (tested)
19in, 21in
WEIGHT 12.1kg (26.7lb)
FRAME Reynolds 853 main tubes, butted cro-mo rear stays
FORK RockShox Reba Race 120mm, 20mm Maxle Lite, Motion Control
WHEELS DT Swiss X430 Disc on Shimano SLX centre-lock disc hubs
TYRES Continental Mountain King folding 26x2.2in
CRANKS Shimano XT
BEARS Shimano XT
BRAKES Shimano XT
OTHER STUFF Genesis 2014 Lo-rise bar and stem, Genesis MTN2 saddle, 6061 seat post, Vise-Grips, TH Industries 848 Aheadset
CONTACT
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The Altitude is adorned with XT stop and go kit

the screw-thru fork keeps steering accuracy impeccable and the relatively steep head angle means it snaps into turns or catches sketchy slips with immediacy. It is the least stable under heavy braking though and occasionally stumbles in really tight, slow situations, so it's not for novices or the nervous.

The steel feel isn't for everyone either. It's not as light or sharp to accelerate as alloy and feedback from the rear isn't as clear either. There's also noticeable twist and flex underfoot when cranking, and gear adjustment accuracy is key to prevent ghost shifting.

WHAT MOUNTAIN BIKE

VERDICT

UPHILL
DOWNHILL
SINGLETRACK
VALUE

The Genesis is an infectiously lively and exhilarating modern take on the classic steel hardtail

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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