

ROC 105

So quick it almost defies its sportive billing, the ROC races to the win

our bikes, two practical and adaptable, two speed focused. A versatile sportive bike, Pinnacle brings 105 parts to a surprisingly low price point. That said they're older models and mixed with cheaper brakes and cranks, so it's not quite the steal it first appears. Its decent frame comes with an odd fork fitted and the wheels add weight. Having ridden a higher spec Dolomite we know there's a decent bike in there, but despite undercutting the competition, we weren't blown away this time. Nonetheless, if your budget doesn't stretch to the extra £200 for the Merlin, the Dolomite SE still has much to recommend it.

The Genesis is practicality personified. Done up nicely in satin blue paint it looks great and functions unimpeachably. It's not particularly light but it rolls along readily



enough and feels bombproof with its tough wheels and surprisingly capable groupset. The geometry continues this theme - it's stable and comfy but doesn't preclude cutting loose and having fun.

By comparison, both the Merlin and Tifosi are much more aggressive. The Tifosi is very quick. Its 105 groupset (the current 5800 series) is rare at this price point. The wheels are light, the FSA crankset good quality and the geometry doesn't spike its speedy demeanour. Although it demands some flexibility of the rider, if that's achievable we'd definitely recommend it.

The Merlin is also quick. We expected a lot given the overheads it ducks, and it delivered: not a weak link in the spec and a blast to ride. We're not sure it'd be out first pick for a long ride, but for bombing about on it's a lot of bike for not a lot of buck.

HOW THEY STACK UP...



