

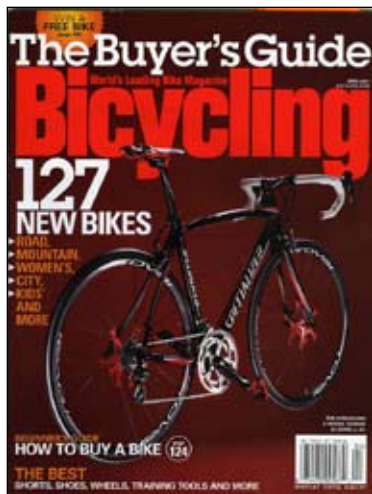
JAMIS VENTURA COMP \$700

SMART PARTS, SMOOTH RIDE: Just because a bike doesn't cost a lot doesn't mean it has to be rudimentary. The Jamis Ventura Comp, for example, takes a surprisingly thorough approach to meeting the needs of new riders.

- On the rill, the Ventura Comp feels well balanced. Testers found handling stable and confident in corners and tight pack riding, yet the lightweight aluminum frame was responsive when we stomped on the pedals. Rider position is more upright than on a race bike, which prevented testers from feeling beat-up even after a four-hour ramble, but the position is not so comfort oriented that the rider feels like a passive passenger. Best of all, the bike climbs well. The compact gearing uses double chainrings—not the triple typically found on entry-level bikes. This makes for a comparable wide range of gears, but it saves weight, simplifies shifting and minimizes misshifts. The compact offers fewer gears, with 16 (2x8), but they are all the one's you'll use, minus the one's you won't miss.
- The other spec is similarly savvy. For one, the bike doesn't come with pedals, because most riders replace the scarily toeclips and straps found on bikes in this price range with clipless pedals. Instead, Jamis sinks extra dough into name-brand parts such as the Easton

handlebar, stem and seatpost, Vittoria tires and the Selle San Marco Ischia saddle, a firm but not hard seat that won't need to be upgraded after a few months. Spend a few hundred dollars more and you could get sharper shifting, faster wheels and a smoother ride—the Jamis Ventura Race (\$1,000) has a carbon-fiber seatpost and seatstays to dampen road vibration. But for the dough, the Ventura Comp is well thought-out and a wise way to get started.—*Loren Mooney*

BUY IT IF: You plan to climb high, go long and be in the pack on charity rides **FORGET IT IF:** You specifically want a comfort bike or a race bike. **SIZES:** 48,51,54 (tested), 56, 58, 61cm **WEIGHT:** 20.6lb. (54cm) **FRAME:** Kinesis 7005 double-butt aluminum **FORK:** Kinesis carbon fiber with alloy steerer **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Shimano Tiagra rear derailleur, Sora shift/brake levers, front derailleur; FSA Vero compact crank (50/34); SRAM PowerGlide 850 8-speed cassette (12-26); Tektro brake calipers; Alex AKX R1.0 wheelset; Vittoria Zaffiro 23c tires; Easton EA30 handlebars, stem, seatpost; Selle San Marco Ischia saddle



ENTHUSIAST → **Jamis Eclipse \$2,500**

WHERE TRADITION MEETS TECH A PREMIUM BLEND: Jamis fine-tunes the Eclipse's ride manners and shaves weight by making the bike half carbon, half steel. A carbon-fiber top tube, seat tube and seatstays keep the pounds off and dampen road buzz, while the rest of the frame is made of Reynolds 853 steel for smoothness. **PERFECT FIT:** Jamis is obsessed with bike fit, reflected in the eight frame sizes. Ditto for the thoughtful component selections—three crankarm lengths and four handlebar widths are used through the frame-size range. **SIZES:** 47,49,51,53,55,57,59,61cm **FRAME:** Carbon fiber/Steel **FORK:** Easton EC70 carbon fiber. **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Shimano Ultegra brake/shift levers, derailleurs, 10-speed cassette (12-25) and brakes; FSA Team Issue Carbon crank (50/34); Mavic Kysrium Equipe wheels; Ritchey Pro Road bar and stem—A.C.



RECREATIONAL → **Jamis VENTURA RACE \$1,000**

CARBON WHERE IT COUNTS SMOOTH ALL OVER: Value doesn't have to come at the cost of comfort, thanks to this bike's vibration-dissipating carbon-fiber seatpost and seatstays. Replacing headset cups, integrated headset bearings inside the headtube give a smooth look to the front end. Shimano's Tiagra STI shifters let riders move through the 18 gears with precision from either the hoods or the drops. **STRONG AND RIGID:** Sprint with confidence, thanks to the oversize, 31.8mm Easton handlebar and stem combo. **SIZES:** 48,51,54,56,58,61cm **FRAME:** Kinesis 7005 butted mainframe w/carbon-fiber monostay **FORK:** Kinesis carbon fiber w/alloy steerer. **COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS:** Shimano Tiagra 9-speed STI shift/brake levers, 105 rear derailleur; FSA Vero compact crank; Tektro dual-pivot brakes; Formula XR6 wheels; Vittoria Zaffiro tires—Ron Koch