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THE DEEPER YOU GET, THE DEEPER YOU GET

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Outdoor Retailer Sneak Peek: Osprey Packs for Spring 2012

Featuring: Zealot and Escapist

Monthly Traffic: 52,100

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/3hojlyo>

WHEN OSPREY PACKS stepped into the marker for cycling hydration packs — where there was already ample competition from Camelbak and Hydrapak — they could've easily fallen on their faces. After all, cycling packs must ride very differently than hydration packs for hiking, and more than one backpack maker has blown this distinction. Instead, Osprey killed it, and the cycling packs we've tested from Osprey ride like...Osprey backpacks. That is, they're pretty bomber, and you don't have to think about them at all, which is the ideal.

For spring 2012, Osprey is pushing harder into the gravity realm, as well as into adventure biking. For the former there's the Zealot series of freeride packs, with the 16 and the 10. Both have anchors/sleeves for a full-face/body armor while maintaining access to side- and top pockets as well as the heart of the pack. The entire back panel clamshells open, with your pads or body armor or jacket still attached to the outside, so you can gain access to the center without removal of all that gear. Another clever addition is a removable, roll-out tool pouch that gets its own pocket at the base of the pack.



If you want to see one loaded up hit this link at BikeRadar.com

Carryover bennies include Osprey's AirScape Suspension back panel that has breathed very well on other packs featuring this system and the minimal yet comfortable BioStretch ventilated harness. Includes a three-liter Nalgene reservoir. \$129 or \$149, depending on size.

As mentioned, there are also two packs coming for the bikepacking crowd, the 20- or 30-liter Osprey Escapist packs are meant for the overnight, bike-powered escape. Prices will be \$99 or \$129, depending on size. All packs available February 2012.

