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Osprey Xenith 75

MountainOnline.com

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The Gear We Just Can't Live Without

Featuring: Xenith 75

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/mfj8nmr>

Field Test: All right, this is a brand new model, but here's why I'm keen on it. Size: there are times—ski mountaineering; family backpacking trips—when capacity is king. The 75-liter version is the smallest of three monster packs (there's an 88 and a 105, too) loaded with features—slick ski and tool attachments, pockets everywhere, smart access. But the best elements have to do with fit. If you're carrying 20 pounds you can get away with webbing straps. When you bump that weight past 50, suspension is crucial. Here, the harness is anatomically correct (and gender specific) and the thickly cushioned waist belt is heat moldable. A must for those of us without hips.

Why It's Timeless: Big adventures = big packs. \$320; ospreypacks.com —M.P.

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