



Velo – Buyer's Guide

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Horses for Courses

Featuring: Raptor 10

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HORSES FOR COURSES: ENDURO



FIZIK THAR KIUM 29ER SADDLE \$150

A 29er-specific saddle? Is that really necessary? Well, that all depends on your fit. The geometry of many 29ers makes it difficult for some riders to obtain the right saddle position while maintaining optimal bar reach. The Thar helps solve that problem by shortening the saddle while elongating its rails to a massive 95mm, allowing for more for/aft adjustability. At 195 grams, it's no lightweight, but the burly metal rails and solid attachment points will keep it in one piece spill after spill.



OSPREY RAPTOR 10 PACK \$120

The Osprey is all that we look for in a pack. It even has features we didn't know we were looking for but now don't want to go without. The built-in tool roll is one of the best features we've seen in a pack, and keeps your sharp tools from banging against your shades or gnawing at your tubes. The bladder integration is top notch and the fit is just right for an average guy — and it comes in women's designs, too. The Raptor 10 is the perfect size for big days on the bike; 10 liters of storage is plenty for the extra clothing and food you need for hours on the trails.

The pack is comfortable thanks to a wide waist strap and a large, breathable back panel.

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BONTRAGER LITHOS HELMET \$100

Light and well-ventilated, with excellent coverage down the back of the skull and an adjustable visor, the Lithos helmet offers incredible bang for your buck. The fit and finish of the Lithos are far above the standard set by other helmets in the same price range.

In fact, the Lithos is actually cooler than many pricier lids; the vents were designed with the lower speeds of mountain biking in mind, with large top vents to allow hot air to escape even when slogging up a fire road at a walking pace.

ERGON

The slim design of the GA1 allows for increased finger wrap, improving control when the going gets rough. But the grips are still comfortable thanks to a new rubber compound that enhances damping. A solid, stable composite clamp keeps the grip from sliding, even on a carbon bar.

