

BUYING GUIDES By AJ POWELL

From wet, loose, loamy soil to hardpacked sand and the beating sun, [mountain biking](#) allows you to enjoy a wide range of outdoor environments. And for as many environments as you can explore via mountain bike, there exist double the number of [mountain bike brands and models](#). Out of the total lot of bad, okay, good and great mountain bikes, we've picked our favorites bikes of 2016. Whether you're in search of a [hardtail](#), an aluminum frame, a 27.5+ beast, or a bike that checks all three boxes, we've got you covered with the best bikes to explore endless miles of trail.

## The 10 Best Mountain Bikes of 2016 - Gear Patrol



Speed is the name of the game when it comes to Niner's Air 9 RDO. This XC machine will make you feel like a [bike messenger in NYC](#) — weaving in and out of cars. But instead of cars, you're dodging trees and hopping logs and rocks at 25 mph down the trail.

**Bike Category:** Cross Country  
**Wheel Size:** 29  
**Suspension Travel:** 100mm

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WORTHY OF A \$10,000  
INVESTMENT