

THREE THINGS
WE LOVE ABOUT THE...

ENIGMA ETAPE DISC

£3999 ★★★★★

Shiny things

Back in the day titanium was the future, before carbon came along... The Etape's neat-as-a-pin tig-welding is backed up by front and rear thru-axles, mudguard and pannier mounts, three bottle cage mounts and even bosses to secure the fully enclosed cables under the down-tube. And there's routing for dynamo cabling through the right fork.

The ride

Simply superb. Accelerates beautifully while soaking up road bumps and retaining loads of feedback. A great balance of stiffness, precise handling and mile-munching smoothness that crackles along on tarmac, track and towpath. And with room for 35mm tyres you could fit full-on grippy gravel rubber for further adventures. It climbs nimbly thanks to its stiffness and low 1:1 bottom gear and descends like a demon. The Shimano Ultegra Ice-Tech hydraulic disc brakes are impeccable.

The versatility

We used the Etape for long-distance commuting, fast towpath traversing and tackling local climbs, but that's just the tip of the Enigma's iceberg. Endurance riding, year-round training, sportives, century – or longer – rides, a spot of bikepacking or touring: this'll do the lot without murmur. Ultegra was faultless, Hunt's tube-less ready wheels tough and the Etape's external cabling and the threaded bottom bracket mean you can service it yourself.

ONE THING WE'D CHANGE

Apart from the price, Enigma is still hanging on to the 31.6mm diameter seatpost. Although comfort through the carbon seatpost is good, we'd still slim it down to the more usual 27.2mm post.



SPECIFICATION
 Weight 8.8kg (56cm)
 Frame 3Al 2.5V titanium
 Fork C-Six AX-DSC
 Gears Shimano Ultegra 50/34, 11-34
 Brakes Shimano Ultegra Ice-Tech
 Wheels Hunt 4 Season Gravel Disc
 Finishing kit Enigma stem, bar, C-Six Carbon 31.6mm seatpost, Enigma Ellipse saddle, 28mm Michelin Krylion tyres