

WHYTE 905

£1,650 / 27.5 Plus / whyte.bike

The hardcore hardtail isn't exclusively British, but it's fair to say that even if we didn't invent it, we've embraced its elegant simplicity, refining it to the nth degree to make it our own.

One British brand that's been at the coalface of hardtail development for over a decade is Whyte. Its first generation 900 series bikes set the longer, lower, slacker standard that most modern trail hardtails have followed.

And it's never stopped evolving, the latest Whyte 905 proving once again that small improvements are always possible if you're prepared to be open-minded about the latest developments.

By adopting 2.8in Plus size tyres Whyte took grip, comfort and control to new heights on the 905. Climbing traction, braking traction and cornering traction were all increased, making the 905 faster and more capable than ever before. A less obvious change is the switch to a shorter offset fork for increased steering

stability. The RockShox fork retains its 130mm travel, which offers more stable dynamic geometry than trail hardtails with longer travel forks.

Factor in the progressive geometry and sizing that Whyte has built its reputation on and the 905 opens up line choices and opportunities that are either invisible or out of reach on other hardtails. With such impressive handling, the Whyte 905 was the standout bike in our Homegrown Hardtail test, holding off stiff competition from Nukeproof and Orange.

Beating your peers in a group test is all well and good, but we also wanted to see what the Whyte 905 was like to live with. So we ran the exact same bike as a longtermer for the best part of a year. The outcome? Big grins all round and another double digit rating for Whyte.

■ **Issue tested:** December 2017

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2019

"The 905 is a bike that has seen the most concentrated and incremental development programme over the last 10 years of any bike in Whyte's history. Since the switch to 27.5in wheels, the 905 has been remorselessly developed every year, and for 2019 it has the very latest geometry concepts; reduced 37mm offset fork and frame geometry for enhanced steering kinematics mean the ride performance is now elevated to new levels of control and confidence-inspiring ride performance." *Ian Alexander, Whyte Bikes*

