

# WINTER JERSEYS

TESTED!

We sent our chaps out in the cold to test the best-looking winter jerseys on the market

**T**he thing about the British winter is how unpredictable it is. This is a problem for cyclists because while you might dress for conditions at the start of your ride, they may change before you get home, either leaving you overdressed and sweating, or on the brink of hypothermia.

Long-sleeve winter-weight jerseys use materials such as fleece-backed Roubaix and technical features like zip guards to keep out wind chill. Some even offer protection against the rain. At the same time, they're thin and light enough for you to layer up when it turns really nasty. We tested a selection to see how they performed...

**BikesEtc**  
**BEST IN TEST**



OVERALL  
10/10

## PACTIMO ALPINE THERMAL JERSEY

▶ **WHAT THEY SAY:** The Alpine Thermal RT Jersey is one of the most versatile garments we manufacture. Alone it performs well in temperatures into the 40s (Fahrenheit), with a gilet and base layer you can easily get down into the 30s. Reflective Technology (RT) on the back and arms makes this jersey perfect for early mornings and low-light winter rides, and the three full-size, and single-zippered pocket makes it ideal for commuting.

▶ **WHAT WE SAY:** While we're not the biggest fans of fluoro yellow, we can appreciate the well-finished design that US company Pactimo has come up with here. The Alpine jersey uses a decent amount of reflective light strips on the arms, shoulder and waist grippers to highlight exactly where

you are when there's no sun to see you by, without ever being overbearing. With a soft fleece lining, it's perfect for winter, serving us well even when temperatures dropped to freezing – we only had to resort to a rain cape if things got wet. Ultimately, this worked superbly for every dry ride, which meant no extra clothing. A full winter-ready bit of kit.

### VERDICT

Plenty of reflectives make this an ideal choice for our commute at this time of year.

 £100  [pactimo.co.uk](http://pactimo.co.uk)



## GORE POWER WS ZO JERSEY

▶ **WHAT THEY SAY:** Thanks to the functional zip-off design, this cycling jersey can be both long- and short-sleeved to suit the weather. The GORE® WINDSTOPPER® is breathable and helps maintain a constant body temperature, even on long rides.

guess that it has removable sleeves. It also uses Gore's renowned Windstopper tech, making it perfect for winter riding and when paired with a deep winter base layer it does incredibly well in lower temperatures. While it does repel some water it isn't fully waterproof.

▶ **WHAT WE SAY:** Gore gives you the best of both worlds with its Power jersey, which features removable sleeves for milder days. Mercifully, the sleeves don't zip off at the shoulder to leave it looking like some sort of Jean-Claude Van Damme jean jacket but exactly where you'd want them to on a short-sleeved jersey. The design is cleverly subtle, too. You wouldn't

### VERDICT

Yes, it's the most expensive on test but its versatility and adaptability mean it's worth forking out for.

 £165

 [goreapparel.co.uk](http://goreapparel.co.uk)

OVERALL  
9/10



## LA PASSIONE DIAGONAL WINTER JERSEY

▶ **WHAT THEY SAY:** Created in a close-fitting Pro aero-cut, the jersey is made from luxurious Italian performance fabric, and lined with fleece-back printable Light Pro. Warm enough to take you through tough conditions our Winter Jersey features a full-length zip with Cam Lock puller and three large reinforced storage pockets. When combined with additional base layers the Winter Jersey performs excellently in conditions between 8-15°C.

without the burden of you actually having to be the national champ to wear it! You may want to save it for dry days, though, because of its colour this isn't much of a match for road muck. It did keep us warm, though, particularly when used as part of a layered outfit. Its thermal lining made it perfect for longer rides, even when it was bitterly cold.

### VERDICT

Stylish looks combined with a thermal lining to keep you warm on even the coldest days – as long as it's dry.

▶ **WHAT WE SAY:** This Italian mob sure knows how to create a stylish bit of kit. Taking cues from the British National Jersey, this is simple and refreshing and comes

 £85  [lapassione.cc](http://lapassione.cc)

OVERALL  
9/10



**BikesEtc**  
**BEST VALUE**



### SANTINI SPRING CLASSIC MUUR LONG SLEEVE JERSEY

► **WHAT THEY SAY:** Born out of the pain that is the Spring Classics, this jersey in its black, red and yellow colours are a tribute to the home of the cobbles, Belgium. Reba thermal fabric retains warmth but is also moisture wicking, keeping your torso toasty without you overheating.

well on its own (sans softshell or waterproof) in temperatures as low as 6°C, we were kept suitably toasty on chillier days. We were split by the unique design, but the homage to Belgium is a nice touch.

#### VERDICT

Comparable performance to some much more expensive jerseys and a great performer in winter.

 £85

 [zyrofisher.co.uk](http://zyrofisher.co.uk)



### RAPHA BREVET JERSEY

► **WHAT THEY SAY:** Warm and insulating, an overlaid panel made from the fabric of the Rapha Brevet Gilet has been stitched onto the front of the jersey and the arms, doing away with the need for a windbreaker or a base layer because the panel layers over the jersey fabric. With reflective and hi-vis Brevet stripes on the front and back, and a total of five pockets, this is a versatile piece with ample storage for food and tools.

cool air out while letting your body vent heat thanks to its merino wool back. A really cool addition is two small zip pockets by the waist at the front of the jersey. Perfect for stuffing your hands in when you're waiting around in the cold or for popping, say, a neck warmer in. Unlike audaxes though, this item isn't cheap.

#### VERDICT

A well put together item, as you'd expect from Rapha, that does the job it's designed for, at a price.

 £145  [rapha.cc](http://rapha.cc)



OVERALL  
7/10



### SPORTFUL BODYFIT PRO THERMAL JERSEY

► **WHAT THEY SAY:** The BodyFit Pro Thermal Jersey is an early-season favourite of the Tinkoff Pro Team, keeping the riders comfortable in early-season training and Spring Classics. Utilising our BodyFit Pro construction which is identical to that used by Team Tinkoff, as well as TDTxp body for extra core warmth and moisture management. We also use ThermoDrytex Plus shoulders and sleeves for high-stretch warmth that won't leave you shivering.

lining. It's undoubtedly a quality product, as you'd expect from Sportful, but it's perhaps better suited to milder conditions (think temperatures of perhaps 8°C and upwards), rather than the deepest, darkest days of winter. Of course, you can always layer up to keep the cold out but you might end up with quite a few layers!

#### VERDICT

A great jersey, well made and comfortable, but not ideally suited to the very coldest days.

 £85  [sportful.com](http://sportful.com)



OVERALL  
8/10



### FWE LTR LONG SLEEVE JERSEY

► **WHAT THEY SAY:** The FWE LTR Long Sleeve Jersey benefits from a classic fit designed to be slightly more relaxed and flattering than some of the pure 'race' jerseys out there. Reflective detailing, a zippered security pocket and full-length zip guard are just a few of the highlights of this jersey. Carefully sourced fabrics make this a quick drying, fast wicking performance jersey for maximum comfort.

the LTR is lacking in technical features. Wind-cheating polyester panels are used at the front while the polypropylene at the back allows moisture to wick away. And it all works well. Our only gripe is that elastic rim of the rear pockets could be a bit more secure.

#### VERDICT

Lacks the performance of some of the jerseys on test but still a great choice if you're on a tight budget.

 £40

 [evanscycles.com](http://evanscycles.com)



OVERALL  
7/10



OVERALL  
9/10



## HOWIES LLAETH LS JERSEY

► **WHAT THEY SAY:** Circular knitted long sleeved cycle jersey with coloured hoops around the chest and biceps. Race cut; designed to fit tight, with no flapping. Knitted with integrated breathable panels to minimise seams and help avoid chaffing.

► **WHAT WE SAY:** If you're a big fan of mod-style clothing then this jersey is going to be right up your (Carnaby) street with its red and white hooped design showcasing an understated look. Unlike others in the test this top is made from Polyamide which is a type of Nylon used in a lot of non-wool base layers, helping to control the body's moisture and temperature.

This actually allows the jersey to feel relatively light while keeping you warm. However, the lack of a thermal lining means that in deep winter we'd opt for something else. In slightly warmer weather when worn as part of a layered outfit, its breathability can't be faulted – as we discovered when we had to wear a waterproof on top of it.

### VERDICT

Well-made, lightweight and stylish, this does a great job of keeping you warm on milder days.

🏷️ £69 🌐 [howies.co.uk](http://howies.co.uk)



OVERALL  
8  
10



## PEARL IZUMI PRO ESCAPE THERMAL JERSEY

► **WHAT THEY SAY:** Stylish and functional, the PRO Escape Thermal Jersey features the wool-looking acrylic Thermal + fabric, which retains warmth and feels amazingly soft to the touch. Along with its classic look, this piece boasts tech features like strategic ventilation panels, lightweight Softshell back pockets, and a handy hem gripper for layering.

► **WHAT WE SAY:** A subtle creation with only slight hints of high-vis, the Pro Escape jersey won't make you stand out too much, while still being stylish enough to get you noticed. Despite its name it doesn't rock any thermal fleecing, rather its polyester weave makes

it appear as if it's made of cosy wool. The jersey is incredibly light which made us wary about riding in it without a softshell jacket – and we were right to be. When we took it out for a spin in temperatures south of 5°, our teeth soon started buzzing. It does work well in milder conditions, however, with just a base layer underneath. 🚲

### VERDICT

An impressively lightweight and comfortable jersey but not the warmest. One for early spring perhaps.

🏷️ £100 🌐 [madison.co.uk](http://madison.co.uk)



OVERALL  
7  
10