

BACKCOUNTRY



Venture's men's Paragon (ladies, peep the Oracle) garnered high praise thanks to universal utility. Everyone from a lighter, aggressive freestyler to a stockier, surfier cruiser dubbed the Paragon a quiver killer. Most telling, our choosiest all-mountain tester compared the deck to a "golden retriever—eager to please, full of energy and a guaranteed good time."

A semistandard all-mountain shape, the Paragon has subtle 7-millimeter taper that facilitates effortless switch shredding, 25-millimeter setback for float and an updated, deeper sidecut for superior edge hold. "The ChatGPT of splitboards, the Paragon provides surprisingly good answers to a variety of terrain types," commented a Wasatch freerider, finding the new sidecut "amenable to all turns." Another Wasatch tester claimed "lightning-fast" edgability had him "wiggling my hips like I was in Zumba class." The biggest deviation from the status quo: Venture's flat profile, which floats better than camber while providing better skintrack grip than rocker.

Venture ranks flex at 6/11, but ash stringers provide "Orville Redenbacher pop and big mountain confidence," according to one Sierra shredder. After clawing into a sketchy, mid-couloir spiny feature, he reported, "The Paragon sashayed through spice, straightlined the choke, then blasted a massive ollie into the apron. That duality of fun and capable is exactly what I want in a daily driver."

Crafted with the Silverton builder's durable construction - resilient carbonium topsheets, cold-rolled high-carbon steel edges and P-tex sidewalls and base—the Paragon is built to last. "There's a reason you see more ancient Ventures in the wild than damn near any split brand," that Sierra rider commented.