



PARLOR SKIS KINGFISHER BC

\$950 - PARLORSKIS.COM

"EASY TO SKI AND A ROCK-SOLID PLATFORM.

With a hefty amount of tip and tail rise to match its long rocker, the Kingfisher BC is made to surf over the pow and crud. And these features, combined with traditional camber underfoot, had many testers extolling its all-around charging virtues: "These skis are full of life," one noted. "Wow! This ski surprised me with their power." another exclaimed. "Very stable... damp to a fault," a third added of the aspen/maple-cored test model. "Hard charging in the pow, crud and steeps," a fourth commented. A one-quiver backcountry contender? Maybe, but its weight left one tester wondering if the ski may be "too stout for backcountry bindings and boots." Parlor handcrafts each pair of Kingfishers to order in Boston, Mass. and can adjust materials to meet each customer's specifications.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN UNDERGROUND LA CABRA GORDA

\$1,199 - RMUOUTDOORS.COM

"BACKCOUNTRY ORIENTED, BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO SACRIFICE PERFORMANCE FOR WEIGHT SAVINGS."

The Cabra Gorda is meant to be a midfat solution for the indecisive in- and out-of-bounds skier seeking flotation in powder along with the option to rail groomer laps, and this ski's crud-busting characteristics appeased most testers. "Flew through chop with impressive authority," one noted, while another commented on the Cabra's "stability in the crud." The combination of traditional camber underfoot and a flat tail, however, left some testers

scribing terms like "old-school" and "stubborn." Even so, one tester noted the "light and chargy" experience, while another dubbed the Cabra a "lightweight, powder-oriented backcountry ski." For this model, RMU embedded the graphics within a carbon layer that's pressed above the yellow aspen core, a feature that serves double duty as both a topsheet and weight-savings measure.



ATOMIC Backland Fr w 152

\$600 - ATOMIC.COM

"THESE WERE WINNERS. FELT SUPER CONFIDENT ON EVERYTHING THAT I SKIED.

This year, Atomic's Backland line-including both skis and boo expands to include their Backland FR series, described by Atomic as "freeride powder chargers" and designed to succeed their Autom series. The women's Backland 102 takes the place of the female specific Century 102 (a previous Editors' Choice winner), offering percent more surface area in the ski's tip and a carbon insert through the length of the ski for stability and edge hold. "They delivered surprisingly good edge-to-edge transitions," one tester said. And raved, "These charged crud without bucking me around and were poor and playful in powder." Despite high marks for playfulness and initiation, the 102's scores dropped off on hard-snow performance.



BLACK CROWS NAVIS FREEBIRD 8800 - BLACK-GROWS.COM

"SKIED SMOOTHLY AND LIVELY, BUT OFFERED PLENTY OF DAMPNESS, TOO.

-SILAS WILD

Even though the Black Crows Navis arrived without a cape, two testers declared it makes you "feel like a hero." Noted another, "It's like injecting rocket fuel into that big artery by your heart." The Navis's superpowers may hail from its moderate front rocker, soft nose and camber underfoot, combined to create a floaty, poppy ride. Testers also unanimously noted how the Navis held up in variable conditions, and three suggested its East Coast practicality—a result, perhaps, of the Navis's stiff tail and sidecut. And aside from one tester, all found the Navis to be a lightweight touring option, due to the Freebird signature paulownia/ poplar core. The Navis's kryptonite? "Ouestionable on bulletproof snow," one tester wrote in a sentiment repeated across many reviews.



184,

179,

LENGTHS:

BS.

133/102/120

LBS.

FINDR 102

\$799 - GENUINEGUIDEGEAR.COM

"THE TRADITIONAL PROFILE WITH A LITTLE ROCKER HAD THESE TURNING NICELY IN THE SOFT."

G3 debuts their FINDr series in three sizes—the 102, 94 (p. 74) and the 86-and the widest of the bunch didn't disappoint. "It tore through chopped-up hardpack and smeared mashed-potato pow," one tester said. "Remarkably stable in wind-affected chunder," said another, evoking G3's mission with the 102-specifically to create a ski suited for both powder days and mountaineering journeys. The FINDr's low weight and reported stability can be traced back to the poplar/paulownia and carbon-fiber construction that's combined with full-length polyurethane sidewalls, intended to decrease chatter. Despite their tester-approved dampness, they were "twitchy and edge heavy on small turns," per one tester, while another noted the tips "can hook and dive in deep snow,"



LINE [188] 83

120

LINE SKIS SICK DAY TOURIST

\$950 - LINESKIS.COM

"BADASS RAILER OF A BOARD THAT KNOWS NO SPEED LIMIT.

Not everyone hates a tourist. Line has proof. Unchanged from last year, the Sick Day Tourist is back season and uses their proprietary Cloud Core combo of wood and composites to keep weight down for uphill travel while retaining structural integrity for dynamic downhill chops. "Very competent in all conditions," one tester said, "especially for how light it is." The Tourist got many rave reviews-mostly referencing its quick, edge-to-edge playfulness broken powder and on hardpack One skinner asked that the tips be upturned just a tad more for breaking trail in deep snow. "My only complaint," he said. "It's not a hardpack standout," another tester commented, "but it's snappy and responsive, and also surprisingly damp for a light ski with no metal.

