

Motorcycle Tour Magazine

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# BACKROADS

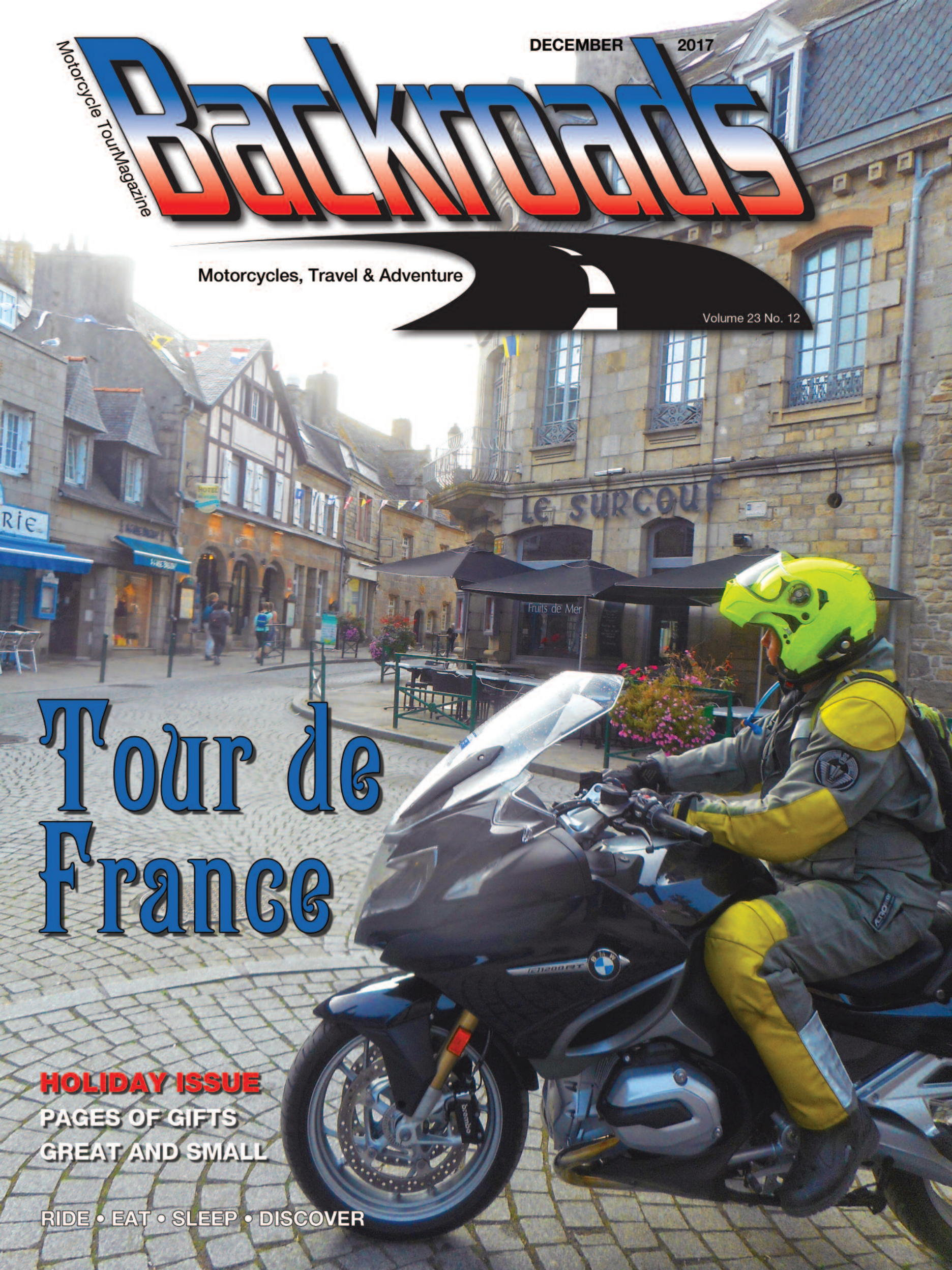
Motorcycles, Travel & Adventure

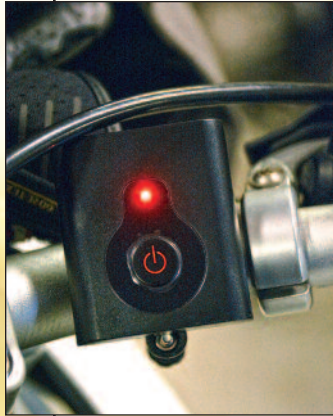
Volume 23 No. 12

## Tour de France

**HOLIDAY ISSUE**  
PAGES OF GIFTS  
GREAT AND SMALL

RIDE • EAT • SLEEP • DISCOVER





The Touring Gloves also have a bit more extra protection with gel knuckle, palm, and finger cushions, along with reinforced fingertips. They are a decent pair of winter gloves even without the heat.

They too come with their own button-style built-in temperature controller that is very easy to use on the road.

But... these were not the buttons I was talking about at the beginning of this review. Nope... that button is up top, now attached to my handlebars.

The Venture Heat's Wireless Remote Control easily attaches by way of a small handlebar bracket and was neatly tucked to an out of the way, yet handy, position. Now, when the temperatures call for some additional warmth I have one plug to deal with and when and if I need the heat I tap the remote control and everything fires up and the multi-colored light flashes on. Green for warm. Yellow for warmer. Red for full on hot! All of which happened in seconds.

I am very impressed with the quality of this Venture Heat Gear and the prices are reasonable when you know you will be using these products for many winter seasons. The Deluxe Liner sells for \$300 and the Touring Gloves \$190. But it was that paradigm shift that really sold me. One touch of the button turned on a whole new and warm world for me. [www.ventureheat.com](http://www.ventureheat.com) ~ Brian Rathjen

### SHAD HARD LUGGAGE

When looking to outfit the Suzuki V-Strom 650XT with some luggage, we decided on SHAD's line of side and top cases. As the bike is quite light and nimble, we wanted to keep the added weight down to a minimum. We also wanted to complement the lines of the motorcycle rather than just add rectangles all around.

SHAD has a few side case options ranging from 23 to 43 liter capacity, as well as top cases ranging from 25 to a voluminous 58 liters. We went for the XPandable 59X along with a set of 23 and 36 side cases, giving an option of full load touring to slim daytripping.

#### SH59X Expandable Top Case

SHAD developed their expandable top cases a few years ago and the 59X is the latest addition. Starting out as a 46 liter case, it can easily enlarge to hold up to 58 liters, which may be more than you really want to pack on the back end of your motorcycle, but it's good to know that it's available (load capacity is rated at 22 lbs). It can hold two full-face helmets. The mechanics appear simple, but I'm sure that the design and engineering took a good amount of thought and time. The top remains in place while the case itself is made of two parts. With the release of two

flat plastic latches inside the case, the case slides up to lock into two positions (52L or 58L), remaining waterproof as the top half slides over the bottom half. I know it sounds more complicated than it is, but sometimes actions are simpler than words.

The SH59X is constructed of 0.8mm thick aluminum and reinforced polypropylene, making for a sturdy structure. The V-Strom is sporting an aluminum cover plate, but it is also available in black, carbon fiber and white. While the case looked too large for the 650, once installed it worked very well. With its flatter clamshell-like shape, it is quite aerodynamic while being extremely functional.

The top case comes with the mounting plate, which was easily installed. We did have a little conundrum in trying to remove the mounting bracket from the case, but once we did the top case popped onto the plate with ease. Shad offers an inner liner (\$65), which is very well constructed and expandable as well, making packing a breeze. The top case sells for \$425 depending on model and options.





### SH36 Side Cases

SHAD has developed a three-point mounting system for their new line of side cases and it is quite sturdy and easy to use. As with the top case, these side cases are ruggedly constructed, can hold a full-face helmet, have an inner shelf and strapping system to prevent your stuff from falling out when opening and have an optional inner liner as well. The cases are lockable and come with an extra key cylinder so you can have one key for all your bags. The opening mechanism is single-handed and the cases have an integrated carrying handle. There is also the option of white, black, carbon fiber and silver tops.

The set sells for \$469 depending on motorcycle model.

### SH23 Side Cases

While the SH36 cases are a great option for longer travels, sometimes you just need a little bit of storage with a slimmer profile. Enter the SH23. These bags are top-loading, very lightweight, fully waterproof and highly aerodynamic. The load capacity is 13lbs and fit on the same 3P mounting system as the SH36 with just a slight alteration to the rubber endstops. They also have an optional inner liner bag and are a great alternative for daily commutes, overnights or apple picking and picnics. Affordably priced at \$179 for the set. You can find these and the full line of SHAD products @ [shadusa.com](http://shadusa.com) ~ Shira Kamil



### SENA INTRODUCES ALL NEW 30K

Introducing the new Sena 30K with Mesh Intercom Technology, the next generation of motorcycle communication. With one click of a button, seamlessly connect to a virtually unlimited number of riders within a mile range using the 30K's

public mode feature. When a rider from the group falls out of range, the rest of the group remains seamlessly connected thanks to the self-healing aspect of Sena's mesh technology. In private mode a rider can create a group with up to 16 riders and an endless amount of guests can listen in.

The 30K bridges the gap between Bluetooth and Mesh Technology devices so that all riders can communicate with one another. The 30K is Bluetooth 4.1 compatible and able to connect to up to three other Sena and even one non-Sena Bluetooth device.

In addition to the technological advance of mesh technology the 30K packs the same feature set as previous Sena devices such as audio multitasking, take and make phone calls, listen to music, hear turn-by-turn GPS direction, and much more. The 30K retails for \$329 single / \$579 dual pack and can be had from your Sena dealer.

