



Vitus Vitesse Evo £1,899



A fine, race-ready frame that rewards hard riding

Vitus has been making carbon-fibre bikes since the early 1980s, so you certainly know that there's plenty of experience behind the Vitesse Evo.

Frame

The frame is exactly the same as that used by the An Post-Chain Reaction pro cycling team, so it's no surprise that this is a pretty racy bike. Almost every part of the Vitesse is designed for optimum power transfer, with a boxy, oversized down tube and chainstays, and a huge BB386 EVO bottom bracket. The internal cable routing is also nicely done to give the bike a clean look.

Specification

Aside from the 105 cassette, the Vitus Vitesse Evo comes with a full Shimano Ultegra groupset. This is exactly what you'd want from a bike of this price point, offering faultless shifting and braking whatever the conditions.

The Mavic Ksyrium wheels are pretty good too, considering they only cost £350. They stood strong in the face of pothole-strewn roads and are reasonably light, which really helped when tackling the climbs.



Bottom bracket is built for stiffness



Ksyrium wheels are great value

Frameset High-modulus T700 HM-UD carbon
Gears Shimano Ultegra (105 cassette), 11-25t
Chainset Shimano Ultegra, 50/34t
Brakes Shimano Ultegra
Wheels Mavic Ksyrium
Tyres Mavic Yksion Elite
Bars Vitus compact
Stem Vitus
Saddle Prologo Scratch Pro
Seatpost Vitus
Weight 7.9kg/17.4lb
Size tested 56cm
www.chainreactioncycles.com

Ride

This is a bike that's at its best when ridden fast. Big power is rewarded with sharp acceleration whether you're dancing up a hill or opening the tanks in a sprint. The stiff front end helps when you swing the bike from side to side in mid-sprint and also delivers good handling, leaving a smile on your face as you sweep down descents, although the tyres aren't best suited to wet conditions. My only real criticism was that the ride began to feel a little harsh towards the end of longer rides.

Value

It's hard to fault the Vitus Vitesse Evo when it comes to value. £2,000 for a bike with a pro-level frame and a faultless groupset seems like a good deal to me. This extends to the wheels, which offer good performance for their price, with the only small sacrifice being the in-house bars, stem and seatpost. *HR*

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