

# BIKE

APRIL 2007 £3.99 | US\$5.25



**'MY FIRST TIME  
INSIDE THE  
MOTO GP  
BROTHER'  
BY RUPERT PAUL**

**EVER  
SEEN A  
1200 BHP  
ROAD  
BIKE?  
YOU NEED TO  
TURN TO PAGE 101**

**FIRST RIDE**

**'IT'S PERFECT'  
ALL-NEW  
HONDA  
HORNET**

**FIRST RIDE**

# GSR 1000

**600, 750 or 1000 at  
the flick of a switch.  
Gimmick or genius?**

**'I'M NOT  
GOING OUT  
THERE.  
IT'S TOO  
DANGEROUS'**

**TT VETERAN GOES  
ICE RACING**

**INSIDE**

New BMW G-Series  
Used Ducati 750SS  
New Honda Hornet 600  
Used Yamaha R6  
New BMW K1200R Sport  
Used Buell XB9R  
New Suzuki Bandit 1250S  
Used Desmosedici GP bike  
New Triumph Sprint  
**Full bike listing, page 5 >>**



# LIGHTER THAN A CBR125 QUICKER THAN A BLADE

Italian tuners give Ducati's two-valve twin the potential to challenge a CBR1000RR

**UPGRADES**

Two-valve Ducati Desmo uses NCR pistons, barrels, valves and rods to make 1200cc and 121bhp. Power to weight ratio is 1.02bhp/kg next to a Blade's 0.95bhp/kg

**ALUMINIUM ART**

NCR hand craft their own substantial swingarm from high grade aluminium, the complete assembly weighing just 3.9kg. All-in, the bike tips the scales at 118kg dry - 49kg less than the latest ZX-6R



This track-only Ducati comes from the long-established NCR factory in Bologna, and if their figures are right it has a 20% better power-to-weight ratio than a Honda Fireblade.

The 2006 NCR Millona won 20 out of 25 races, taking the Ducati Desmo Challenge and Italian Supertwins Championship. This year's revised model is even lighter and more

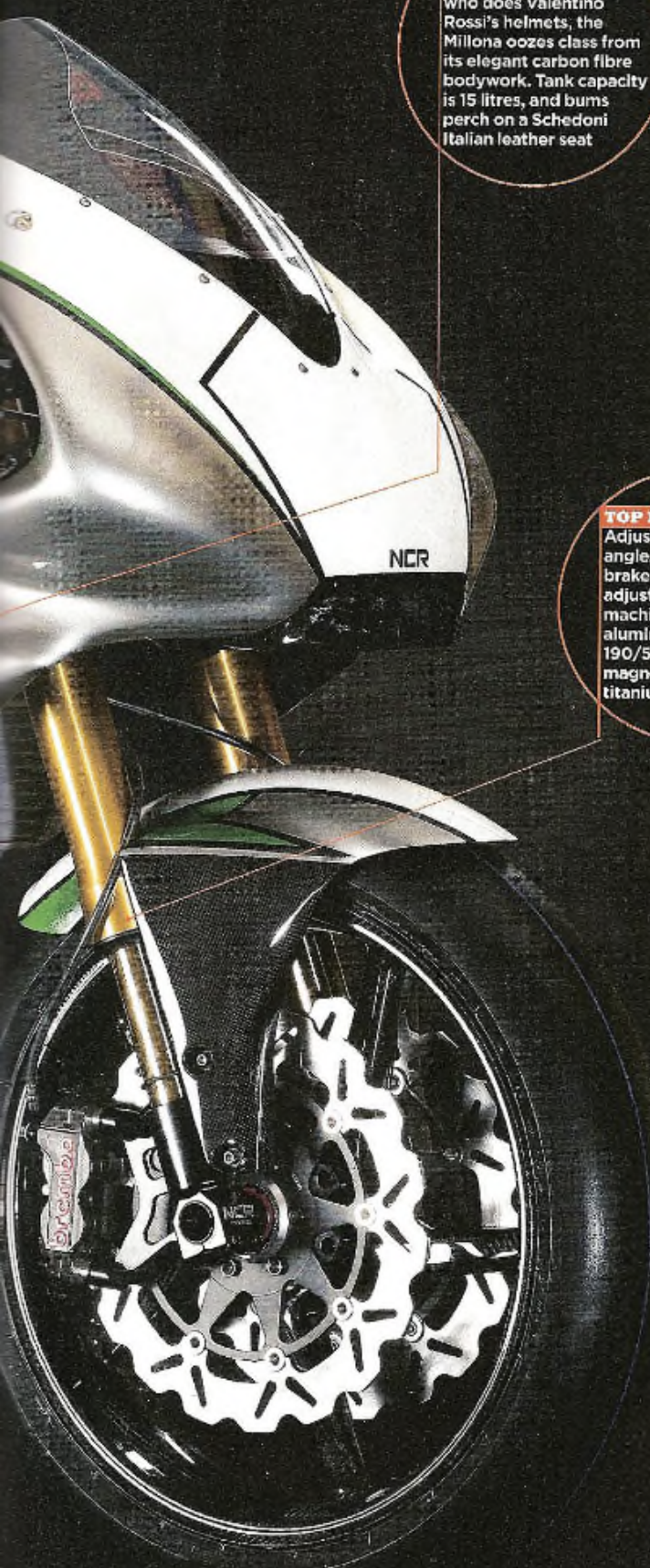
powerful, and positively drips with rare and delicious goodies including a bespoke trellis frame, custom-built Mupo shock (high/low speed damping adjustment, naturally), hand made swingarm, 1200cc engine conversion, inbuilt datalogging and unique bodywork.

Still not cool enough? Aldo Drudi - Rossi's helmet artist - designed the thing. The £38,800 starting price is tough (around

£26,000, or with extras up to £41,000), but there are two versions with humble CroMo steel frames, stainless pipes and stock Duc 1000DS motors: the Millona R at £21,000, and the base model S at a mere £16,000.

"Right now the best way for people in the UK to buy one is to write an email direct to me," reckons NCR's Michele Poggipolini (on [m.poggipolini@ncrfactory.com](mailto:m.poggipolini@ncrfactory.com)).





#### CLASSIC STYLE

Designed by the bloke who does Valentino Rossi's helmets, the Millona oozes class from its elegant carbon fibre bodywork. Tank capacity is 15 litres, and bums perch on a Schedoni Italian leather seat

#### TOP DRAWER

Adjustable steering angle, Brembo Superbike brakes, Ohlins forks, fully adjustable monoshock machined from solid aluminium, 120/70 and 190/55 R17 slicks on magnesium wheels, titanium fasteners...

#### AIR MILES FOR TRACK ADDICTS

Buy eight, get the ninth one free - that's the offer this year for heavy users of Focused Events Trackdays. To grease things along, you get 10 per cent discount after the first four, plus 10 per cent off the Demon Tweaks catalogue, and more goodies besides. See [focusedevents.com](http://focusedevents.com)



#### NEW LIFE FOR DEAD FORKS

American suspension specialists Traxion are doing unfeasibly high quality spring and cartridge kits to 'transform' the fork action on new and, intriguingly, older bikes. Prices for most are \$1000 (about £500) plus delivery, or \$1150 when new fork caps give previously lacking preload and rebound adjustment, eg VFR, SV650, Blackbird. See [www.traxion.com](http://www.traxion.com)



#### ENGLISH RING INSTRUCTION

Unless you're a flippin' expert, you need an instructor for a visit to Germany's awesome Nürburgring. Four dates this year offer English-language tuition by Neil Leigh. £600, closed circuit, half board in nearby Dorint hotel. Beginners: 6-9 May, 15-18 July. Advanced: 24-27 June, 25-28 July. Visit [www.aeaventures.com](http://www.aeaventures.com)



#### TEXT ME A SIDEPANEL

Remember gissit.com, the web-based used parts search engine? Now there's a similar fuff-killing service using your mobile. Just text BIKE plus what you want and your area to 80818, and you'll get results from over 20 breakers. It costs a quid. See [ebreakers.co.uk](http://ebreakers.co.uk)

## WINNERS LOSERS

#### PHOTOCOPY IT OR LOSE IT

For the first time ever, the excuse 'my licence was eaten by snakes' could begin to approach the truth. MAG is warning that riders sending their licences to DVLA for a routine change have reported the 'disappearance' of their bike entitlement. In which case the buggers are asking for proof of passing a test.

#### HARDLY WORKING, SON

Around 2800 annoyed workers went on strike on February 2 at Harley-Davidson's biggest factory, over proposed changes to their pay and benefits. Production was halted for over two weeks, and the cost to H-D is estimated around \$11m (£5.6m) every day in lost sales. Gulp.



#### WHO NEEDS FRENCH TOLL ROADS?

Leave Calais early evening, wake up in Nice, ride off the train. Sounds nice? It certainly saves the slog across France with all the toll unpleasantness that involves, and if you book together you get two bikes and four bobs for the price of one bike and two people. There's also a Calais to Narbonne option (and Spain beyond). Ring Rail Europe on 08708 304 864.