

Qoroz Road Won £1,799

(frame, fork, stem, seatpost, headset)

It could be the name of one of Saddam's half-brothers or maybe something one of the monkeys typed on the way to the works of Shakespeare, but Qoroz is actually a British company based near Stroud which has been making top-end titanium bikes for about two years. Its parent company manufactures coordinate measuring machines for the aerospace, automotive, electronics and medical industries, and chief engineer Marcus Eales has always been passionate about cycling, so although Qoroz is the new kid on the bike industry block, the experience of precision instruments that Eales brings to the table means the bikes were excellent from the start, and Qoroz already sponsors the South West Bike Academy.

Qoroz doesn't shy away from pushing the qualities of titanium that make it so suitable for bike frames: "Half the weight of steel, twice as stiff as aluminium, guaranteed against fatigue and requiring no painting..." The combination of the material and the technical expertise promise something special — though let's keep things in perspective and remember that titanium is half as stiff as steel and twice as heavy as aluminium, so tube diameters and/or wall thicknesses need to be increased accordingly. And the Road Won is the heaviest bike in this test.

Qoroz bikes are designed in the UK and made in the Far East — like many titanium products. The company offers off-the-peg or, via a partnership with bike fitter Kinetic-One (www.kinetic-one.co.uk) custom geometry for a fully bespoke frame, which can be delivered in six weeks.

The Road Won is intended to be a do-it-all bike, with mudguard clearance to get you through a British winter with a dry behind and dry-ish feet. You need to leave a little bit of a gap for mudguards, but Qoroz has left

a very big gap between the seat tube and the rear wheel which, coupled with a relatively slack head angle, means the Road Won has a long wheelbase. It also has a long head tube, so that the bar can be at a sensible height for long days in the saddle, and the top tube slopes for a smaller, stiffer front triangle. The seatstays curve gracefully downwards towards the dropouts, maximising that sought-after springy titanium ride. This all means it is perfect for longer rides when comfort rather than straight-up speed is the priority.

I spy Ti

Most titanium bikes are left with a raw titanium finish, supposedly because they don't corrode and therefore don't need paint to protect them — but if you've paid the amount that is necessary to secure a titanium bike for yourself, let's face it you're going to damn well make sure people know it's a titanium bike and there's no way Qoroz owners would want to hide their light under a bushel. The welds

We liked...
Comfort, simplicity, the 'feel' of Ti

Model: Road Won
Manufacturer: Qoroz
Price: £1,799
Weight: 18.6lb
Size tested: Custom
Frame: Titanium
Fork: Qoroz full carbon
Size range: S, M, L, XL or custom
Transmission: Shimano Ultegra
Gear ratio: 50/34 with 11-25

Titanium: an exotic material with an easy ride



Titanium stem provides further road damping



are visible with titanium bikes — you either like that or you don't.

The Road Won is not spectacularly light, but it's built for comfort, and comfort is just what you get with this combination of compliant material and

“It is perfect for longer rides when comfort rather than straight-up speed is the priority”

compliant design. The long chainstays mean rugged road surfaces are smoothed out incredibly efficiently, and the famous damping properties of titanium enhance the effect. With a Qoroz titanium stem and seatpost, your contact points are definitely not forgotten about.

The Road Won is the perfect vehicle to showcase the qualities of titanium. The well considered geometry makes the most of the properties of the 'wonder metal'. Qoroz says that one of its frames will be the last you ever need to buy, and they all come with a lifetime guarantee.

EXPERT

THE MATERIAL

What is titanium?

Titanium is a metal with a low density, high strength and excellent resistance to corrosion. It's even stronger when it is alloyed with other metals such as aluminium. The alloy 6Al-4V is the most common in manufacturing and also in bicycle frame building. It was developed for the aerospace industry, with the Soviets taking particular interest in it for military hardware during the Cold War.



We disliked...
It lacks a little bit of zip

