

BIANCHI INFINITO

A long-distance performer from the legendary Italian bike company



Bianchi's Infinito adds sexy and speedy to the affordable sport racer.

Arguably one of the most storied names in all of cycling, the famous Reparto Corse (Race Shop) of Bianchi has been churning out high-end and high-fashion road bikes for over 125 years (Edoardo Bianchi opened up his first shop in Milan in 1885). Names like Galletti, Coppi and Gimondi are part

of the Bianchi racing mystique and history as well as more recently, Marco Pantani and Jan Ullrich. The Infinito emerges from this storied past as an extension of the popular 928 C2C design from Bianchi but features a slightly longer head tube (1.5 centimeters longer), longer chainstays and a

longer wheelbase for a smoother and more comfortable-feeling bike.

THE PARTS

Our 57-centimeter Infinito features a nano-technology, monocoque carbon frame with Kevlar inserts for vibration damping; a complete Shimano Ultegra



group (with a 105 12/25 cluster); a Bianchi K-VID carbon fork; an FSA Carbon pro stem; FSA Wing Compact bar; and an SL-K carbon post. A Fizik Aliante Delta saddle completes the package. The graphics on the Infinito are distinctly Bianchi.

THE RIDE

After riding the other high-end offerings in our Euro Roundup, the under-\$3000 Bianchi sat in the corner for a while, playing second fiddle to the more expensive bikes. Once we saddled up and took the Infinito on our first ride, however, it shined in almost every category. While not in the featherweight class, the Infinito climbed remarkably well and with confidence. On descents, the bike was a smooth partner, not prone to make quick moves, but responsive enough to encourage speed and confidence. On two long rides, the Infinito stood out as not only a comfortable bike for longer days in the saddle, but it also has some more performance-focused attributes when we needed to sprint or corner at speeds. We would upgrade from the Fulcrum Racing 7 wheels that come on the Infinito and keep this bike for a long time of fun riding.

BONUS POINTS

1. Surprisingly confident, comfortable and malleable.
2. Descends like a smooth bandit.
3. Upgrade-ability: Throw some high-end hoops on the Infinito and it's local race-ready.
4. It's hard not to feel like an Italian climber on a Bianchi.
5. For under \$3000, you can be part of cycling history and have a blast riding your bike.

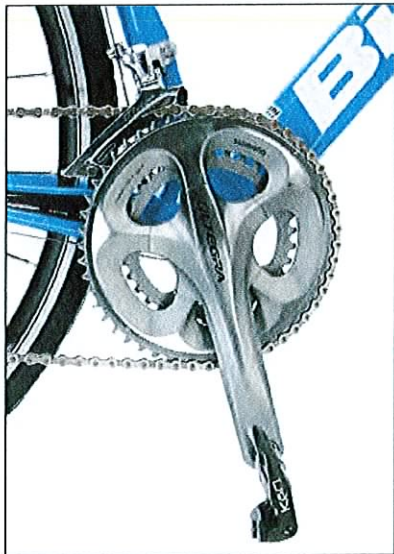
THE STATS

Price: \$2999

Weight: 17.8 pounds

Sizes: 50, 53, 55, 57-59-61 centimeters

Info: www.bianchiusa.com



Both the graphics and carbon construction blend the lines of the Bianchi into a unified whole.

Shimano's Ultegra is the working-man's Dura-Ace. Yes, it's that good.