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↑
Marin
Wolf Ridge
Pro

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MARIN WOLF RIDGE PRO

WE PUT THREE of our most experienced testers on Marin's new Wolf Ridge Pro. Crusty as our gear reviewers can be, they agreed: This bike is special.

It looks special. It has the typical long-low-slack layout that's popular these days, but the rear suspension hints at something different. The lower link slides—it's effectively a shock with no internals. The suspension's designer, Darrell Voss, claims this makes the system stiffer, and lower maintenance, than a traditional pivoting link. Marin also claims better traction, better pedaling, etc. The usual.

But the ride is captivating.

On paper the Wolf Ridge looks like a big-wheeled, long-travel enduro bike. But it's a lot more efficient, lively, quick, and easy-steering than almost all 160mm-travel 29ers, so it rides more like an everyday trail bike. It's also one of the best climbing bikes of its class that we've ridden.

While a lot of big-travel 29ers feel stuck to the ground, this one has pop, so you flick and loft it down the trail rather than point and plow. Stiffness is good, and the rear center is short enough to make it easy to pivot through switchbacks and float the front end. Testers, however, did find the front-center slightly short.

It probably isn't the right bike for someone who values the descending domination of a monster truck enduro bike over climbing and slow-speed steering. But it does provide an option for XC-leaning riders who like the benefits of more travel (comfort, control, traction, and stability) in a lively bike that climbs very well. Marin took a risk and made a different kind of trail bike. And boy, is it ever special.—*Matt Phillips*

PRICE
\$8,600
WEIGHT
30.4 LB (M)

