

Puncheur is a name given to a road bicycle racer who specialises in rolling terrain with short but steep climbs

CMT has been on the scene for around 15 years but in 2016, the French company (from the Savoie region in the French Alps) passed a milestone, taking things to the next level. They no longer outsource fabrication of their frames - they are built in their workshop at Aix-les-Baines. *Velo de Route* took their flagship model: the RS2 to test.

A TITANIUM SOUL

This CMT is relatively sober in its architecture. The lines are crisp, clean & racy. The tubes appear to have a large diameter, CMT keeps the specifics of this key element a trade secret.

To ensure consistent quality of their product, the tubes are specially cast for CMT. They are sourced from the aeronautical industry, rather than the cycling world. Three metre tubes are delivered to the workshop in Savoie, where CMT cut them to length, mitre and weld the frames. The tapered head tube, the pronounced sloping and the internal cable routes give this frame its modern styling. CMT chose to focus on the sportiness & strength in this frame, rather than its weight. This goes some of the way to explaining the 1400 grams of the frame, which comes with a lifetime warranty. You can even visit the workshop to see how they're made.

PHOTOS

NICE ADD-ONS

If you've got a few dollars to spare, you can go for:

- Custom made-to-measure
- Disc brake modification to the frame
- Extra reinforcements to increase rigidity
- Personalised logo decoration in blue, purple or gold

THE SET UP PHOTOS

IN ACTION

The sporty look is a glimpse of what's to come: the RS2 has a wild temperament. "Hard and Responsive" like a good Carbon Fibre (CF) or top level steel frame is really not a stroll in the park type of bike. It will age better than a steel frame, and better for the environment than CF.

The RS2 shows its true colours in second winds and friendly rivalry. Its edgy geometry enhances its responsiveness, a dream to ride through switchbacks. That said, a straighter fork would make this bike even more responsive. While being very sporty, this frame remains comfortable.

This is no ordinary titanium frame. It's the first frame that stands up to sudden bursts of

power. We can let it off the hook for being slightly uncomfortable, which is most noticeable in the rear triangle - flexible 25mm tube/tyres would perfect this bike. And don't worry - when you feel the fatigue kick in the RS2 won't hold it against you, it's really very forgiving

FOR WHO?

the CMT RS2 is built for competition, its strength and agility make for a reliable and high performance machine. The bike can be customised to suit your needs and budget.

PROS: Finally a French made top-end titanium frame

CONS:None