



220
TRIATHLON
BEST ON
TEST



AIRSTREEEM CARBON AERO 50

£1,699 ▶ *Do these handbuilt rims justify the outlay?*

Salzburg-based Airstreem make handbuilt wheels for tri and road racing, and the Carbon Aero 50 SL is a truly modern disc brake wheelset in a 50mm depth. The latest version has a revised set of aluminium hubs, which Airstreem say are lighter and stiffer, and, in combination with modifications to the rim, the weight is an impressive 1,460g a pair. You also have the option to fit ceramic bearings for an extra fee if you want added efficiency savings, and they're tubeless-ready or you can run as standard clinchers with inner tubes.

On the road, the Aero 50s are fast, smooth and offer superior acceleration. Crosswind stability is excellent, and they also feel tough even though the weight is relatively low for wheels with a 50mm rim depth. Integrated spoke nipples make tinkering more difficult, but Airstreem say this provides a more efficient power transfer (based off our test rides, we wouldn't disagree). Overall, these aero wheels are showstoppers, available with numerous decal colourways to match your bike, and will make a speedy addition to any tri or road machine for a price that isn't too steep for what you're getting. There's also a five-year warranty and crash-replacement promise. **JS** airstreem.com

87
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VERDICT FAST-ROLLING, WELL-CRAFTED RIMS THAT ARE IDEAL FOR TRI RACING

MAVIC COMETE PRO CARBON SL UST DISC

£1,800 ▶ *Trusted by pros, worth it for age-groupers?*

Mavic's top-end wheels aren't cheap, but they're trusted by countless pro triathletes to offer rims that are fast and stable with low rolling resistance. The Comete Pro Carbon SL UST Disc from the French brand are tubeless-ready, weigh 1,515g a pair and come supplied with Mavic's own Yksion Pro UST tyres, tubeless sealant, rim tape and valves (you can also run them as clinchers with tubes).

The hubs are convertible to QR with the use of supplied adapters, useful if you want to swap them between disc and rim brake bikes. Before we hit the road we faced a problem that, after feedback from other athletes, we're not alone in facing: the tyres are an absolute faff to fit. We soon gave up with Mavic's own tyres and used some from another brand.

On the road, the wheels rolled reliably and smoothly as we'd expect from Mavic. The 45mm depth had no problems in crosswinds, and the sound from the hub lets cyclists know you're coming without being too noisy. The fitting issues are the last thing you want to hear if you're an athlete running tubeless who's flatted and needs to add a tube in to complete the bike. For that reason, they miss out on the victory in this head-to-head. **JS** mavic.com

**RACE
READY
WHEELS**

76
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VERDICT LOVELY AND SMOOTH WHEELS, BUT A CONSIDERABLE PAIN TO MOUNT TYRES ONTO