

RCZ CREST 29"

Ready steady...

Wheels belong to the most noticeable components of a mountain bike because they determine its performance. This fact is especially important for those whose success in a race often depends on a blink of an eye. The wheels we are going to introduce here in more detail are made for riders who are focused on their performance and who prefer to buy equipment of a high quality for reasonable prices.

Tech info: The basis of the tested wheels are hubs with sealed bearings. There is a 15mm thru axle in front and a 5mm quick release skewer at the rear. The freehub body at the rear matches with a 9 speed or a 10 speed cassette, equipped with an alloy carrier. To make the list complete, let's add there is also a quick release wheel adapter for the front axle included in the supply.

Reliable hubs of their own construction are combined with dependable ZTR Crest rims by No Tubes. Aluminium rims with the internal width of 21 mm and a patent pending profile allowing the tubeless system are equipped with 32 DT Swiss Competition spokes.

The weight of the wheels is very low; 1620 g to be exact, and so it is not surprising that the maximum loading is 85 kg. The tested model is, like many others, available in an internet shop www.rczbikeshop.com exclusively, for the retail price of €299.99.

Field test results: It is quite obvious who these wheels are made for. With respect to their low weight and limits set by the producer, they are suitable for performance-oriented bikers whose priority is speed. If you can't resist the acceleration and there is a competitive spirit burning inside you, you will be keen to ride them. If you don't see the point of being on the podium, have a look elsewhere.

Rim tape either valves for tubeless use are not included, so there is no other way than to depend on your DIY skills. Installation of the tires might change into a test of your patience because they are really tight fitting. It is a good idea to use soapy water as it helps the tire „seat“ and the whole process gets significantly easier. Once you have poured the sealant into the tires and inflated the tires – you can use any kind of a floor pump, but an air compressor will be handier – there should be nothing to stop you from setting off. The first couple of metres will show you the difference.

Lightweight alloy rims provided with tires, which are designed with truly aggressive tread pattern, respond to the slightest acceleration. We can guarantee the rolling speed of the rims will get under your skin. The low weight wheels do not work ideally over rough terrain, especially if you carve curves at speed. The design of the rims cannot offer so much stiffness as we would desire.

However, let's be lenient because the wheels are a racing tool, so let's take them like that.

We must also mention the hubs which coped with more than a thousand kilometres of riding mainly in winter without any harm. The bearings were in the same condition as at the beginning of our test, which is a proof of their quality as well as a proof of the impeccable sealing of the hubs themselves. There were several scratches on the rims while the hubs survived totally untouched.

RCZ Crest wheels performed very well. These affordable wheels offer convincing performance which allows them to compete with products of more popular brands.

Reasonable choice: If you are looking for a compromise between high performance and a good price, our tested model should be one of your favourites.