2009 Charity-Ride Guide **World's Leading Bike** GET STARTED Exclusive! Join the cause with Lance Armstrong Patrick Dempsey LeBron James ERGY Ride 100 Miles in One Day Editors' Choice & Finish he Best Bikes - Our Favorite Shorts Strong THE BEST \$1,000 ROAD BIKE, 'he Lance Effect Why the Tour of Italy Matters EAT THIS, RIDE STRONGER



Javelin Cortina

At its best, a road ride feels like flying—fast, effortless and fluid. In this regard, Javelin's Cortina is more like a set of wings than a wheeled vehicle. We were impressed by the bike's ability to nearly levitate over choppy pavement and provide instant, powerful drivetrain response. The Cortina, designed in the United States and made in Italy, handled intuitively, with almost no gap between the rider's intent and the bike's movement. Last year's winner, the Crumpton SL Road, made by Nick Crumpton, in Texas, shined again with its speedy, luxurious feel—as if it were the love child of a Ferrari and a Lexus. And the Cyfac Absolu felt ultralight, ultrasmooth and ultrafast, a modern classic from a storied French racing brand. WEIGHT: 13.69 lb. (55cm) PRICE: \$11,000 lframe, fork and headset]; \$15,950 as built SIZES: 50, 53, 55 (tested) and 60cm; custom SPEC HIGHLIGHTS: Kevlar-impregnated corrugated honeycomb carbon fiber; integrated headset; SRAM Red components; Mavic Ksyrium Premium wheels INFO: javbike.com





RUNNERS-UP



Crumpton SL.
Road weight, 14,44 lb.
(54cml PRICE: \$4,800 frame
and fork: \$7,900 as tested
SIZES: Custom SPEC HIGH-LIGHTS: Full custom geometry:
Edge carbon-liber fork: SRAM Red
components; Zipp Team wheels:
INFO: crumptoncycles.com



Cyfac Absolu WEIGHT: 14,06 (b. (M)
PRICE: \$4,980 stock [frame, fork, headset and cages]; \$6,890, custom; approx. \$9,700 as built SIZES: XS, 5, M (tested), L, XL; custom SPEC HIGHLIGHTS: Integrated seatpost and headset; BB30 option; SRAM Red components; Fulcrum Racing Zero 2-Way Fit wheels INFO: velocuropa.com * The three finalist bikes were built for our test group and not custom-built for an individual buyer, but each epitomizes the philosophy of the builder.

! More at BICYCLING.com . . . For a video review, go to BICYCLING. com/javelincortina.