



BENELLI TRE-K AMAZONAS 1130

Above: Rough, rugged but typically continental; we reckon the Amazonas is one of the best looking bikes available today.

Is there really room in the market for another adventure tourer? Benelli certainly seem to think so... Nigel Hole tries out the latest contender.

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It's 6am on a Saturday, peak summer, the clouds have already delivered what seems like an Amazonian level of rainfall overnight and it shows no sign of stopping. It's not often, however, that you get the chance to take a brand new launch bike and use it for what it's supposed to do; more often than not it's a blast around the foothills of somewhere for 20 minutes and then chat with the guys who designed it. Not this time – Benelli just said: "Get out and use it!", and use it I will. The pin in the map says Newquay, Cornwall, or in other words, 870 miles over two days.

The Amazonas was launched at the

Milan motorcycle show in November 2006 as a stablemate to the Café Racer, TNT and the Tornado models. When the original images reached the office last year, we knew we had to have one but we've had a long wait for the first one to arrive here in the UK. It doesn't disappoint.

Styling is typically Italian and I have to say, Multistrada'esque right down to the mirrors. The overall design is seemingly in three phases with the nose cone, the midriff and the tail unit all hanging together beautifully.

A lap around the bike quickly shows there to be a lot of trick bits too: Brembo