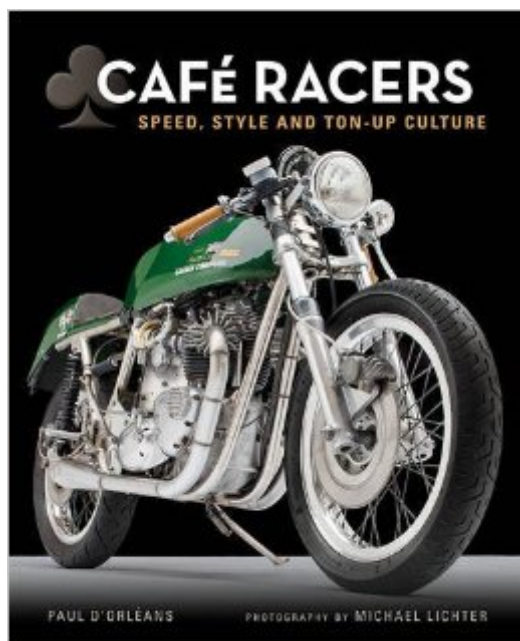


The book was found

Cafe Racers: Speed, Style, And Ton-Up Culture



Synopsis

A photographic chronology of some of the fastest, most stylish, and most individualized bikes in motorcycling history. Originally used as a slur against riders who used hopped-up motorcycles to travel from one transport café to another, café racer describes a bike genre that first became popular in 1960s British rocker subculture - although the motorcycles were also common in Italy, France, and other European countries. The rebellious rock-and-roll counterculture is what first inspired these fast, personalized, and distinctive bikes, with their owners often racing down public roads in excess of 100 miles per hour ("ton up" in British slang), leading to their public branding as "ton-up boys." Café Racers traces café racer motorcycles from their origins in the mid-twentieth century all the way into modern times, where the style has made a recent comeback in North America and Europe alike, through the museum-quality portraiture of top motorcycle photographer Michael Lichter and the text of motorcycle culture expert Paul d'Orléans. Chronologically illustrated with fascinating historical photography, the book travels through the numerous ever-morphing and unique eras of these nimble, lean, light, and head-turning machines. Café Racers visually celebrates a motorcycle riding culture as complex as the vast array of bikes within it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cafe Racers:Speed,Style and Ton-Up Culture is Lavishly Illustrated throughout with the Best Subjects in the Cafe Racers genre chosen. The photography and the style of the photography is TOP Notch,The Cover Bike is Gorgeous, My Favorites Being The Triumphs,Harleys and Ducati. I

would have like to have seen More Kawasaki specifically a Z1 and even More Harley Davidson's. The only thing I Strongly Disliked was towards the end in the last chapter the Author describing his political Ideology as being a Anarchist while he moved to San Fran, this little detail no one cares about stick to bikes and not showing off how "Counter-Culture" and Anti-Establishment one might be to be "cool" and "hip". I also don't appreciate the pot shots at "Plastic" 80s Sportbikes, being 32 I grew up on said Pocket Rockets and Love The Ninja so I don't take kindly to trash talking the Ninja which along with other Sportbikes I Love (Specifically the Ninja and GSX-R, and Yamaha, and the Eddie Lawson Replica Kawa.) I later Loved and still do Harley's and could not stand "Naked Bikes". But I appreciate the Cafe Racer style bike specifically as close to the era as possible. Regardless of one's age you will love the book and if your not familiar with the bikes and bike builders you will be, this book the publisher did a AWESOME Job with and it was well worth the Wait, If you Love Motorcycles Like I do you will love the detail that went into these Works of Art and this book which itself is a work of art.

Most of the time the computer screen seems adequate to explore interests like this. Lots of great photos out there if you look around and these days there aren't a lot of books of this heft and size that you want to commit your space and money to. This one is different. It's an excellent group of talents coming together to make a great book. I just picked it up for my brother's birthday, now I need one. Paul d'Orleans is a learned, modern day cavalier who knows bikes in and out. His writing is elegant and fun and his wet-plate photos are beautiful. Michael Lichter, ex be-bop drummer / now well-established and extraordinary photographer has done each bike justice with photos that are very powerful. You really feel like you can reach out and polish them. If you just want a great visual treat with very cool bikes or if you want in-depth history of some motorcycles from the cafe racer culture, this is a very good book.

Somewhat disappointing. Many if not most of the bikes featured are HD: a marque I wasn't aware had contributed a great deal to cafe racer culture or aesthetics.

Just the right amount of history complimented by rich photography, Café Racers is the perfect balance for the eyes and mind. Lichter's photography is well known and d'Orleans's writing (not to mention his cool tinplate daguerreotypes) is very quickly becoming well known and for good reason. Reading Café Racers reminds me that my knowledge of bikes is a grain of sand compared to d'Orleans's Daytona Beach. This is an excellent addition to anyone's library.

-JZ

Great reference book! Thanks to Lictor's, outstanding (The Best In The Business) photography. If you're interested in the "Cafe" culture, then buy this book! A truly definitive piece of work. A+++

This book appears to have a serious US bias and perhaps should be flagged as such. Since when was a Harley a café racer? Real café racers are the antithesis of Harleys - fast, lightweight with good steering and breaking. The US angle on this may be quite different to the UK version where the bikes which evolved into café races started before the '39 - '45 war reaching a peak well before the 1960s.

Probably some of the highest quality photographs of motorcycles I've seen. Worth every penny if you have an interest in motorcycles and specifically modified cafe style bikes. I can't comment on the text, in this case it's secondary to the photos. Wade

Simply terrible. If you're a HD fan and feel left out by Cafe Racer "lifestyle" then you might enjoy it. Everyone else, it's tripe.

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