



Clockwise from left: Orbea's carbon-framed Onix TDA has a flex-free chassis, solid-performing 105 parts, including shifters, and tidy cable routing.



## Orbea Onix TDA

ORBEA'S LEAST-EXPENSIVE CARBON-FRAME ROAD MACHINE, THE ONIX, IS available in three models: the TDF, TDE and TDA. The difference is found only in component mix, color and price. They share the same carbon frame, which has a lot in common with its higher-end siblings. The Onix comes from the same mold as the more costly Opal model but uses medium-modulus carbon instead of a high- and medium-modulus blend. And the Onix geometry is very close to that of the Olympic-gold-medal-winning Orca. "We've never taken the dumbed-down approach to geometry," says Orbea's marketing director, Justin Slarks. Frame-tube diameters and carbon layups vary by frame size to make the smallest-size ride similar to the largest—something Orbea calls SSN, or Size Specific Nerve technology. (Although you can buy the Onix with different builds, it is not part of Orbea's Made to Order program, which lets you customize the Orca, Opal and Diva, right down to the stem size; the TDF and TDA are also available in women's versions.)

With Shimano components and wheels, the Onix TDA has a blue-collar parts philosophy that lets the flex-free carbon frame shine. It harnesses power well and keeps steering accurate while muffling road feedback. The handling inspires confidence—we screamed down Las Flores Canyon in the hills above Malibu, California, and cruised with stability while soft-pedaling down the Pacific Coast Highway. The Orbea-branded brakes have average stopping power, but the pads have a habit of picking up flakes of rim material, creating a sandpaper-like sound. Plan on upgrading the pads to get the most out of the system.—Ron Koch

\$2,149

WEIGHT	19.68 lb. (57cm)
SIZES	48, 51, 54, 57 (tested), 60cm
FRAME	T700 medium-modulus carbon
FORK	Carbon blades w/ alloy steerer
COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS	Shimano 105 STI shift and brake levers, derailleurs, FC-600 compact crankset (50/34), R500 wheels; Zeus Pro brakes and Cat 1 bar and stem; Vittoria Zafiro tires; carbon seatpost; Selle Italia XR Trans Am saddle
INFO	orbea-usa.com

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THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE FRAME