First look Quite sporty for a steel tourer. Well equipped for the price but needs lower gears



Tech spec

66 While the 11-speed cassette means few big gaps on the cassette. I'd have liked a significantly lower bottom qear



SONDER SANTIAGO RIVAL 22 GRAND TOURER

Price: £1,799. Sizes: S, M (tested),

Reynolds 631 steel with thru-axle, rack and mudguard mounts, three pairs of bottle bosses. Straight steel fork with thru-axle. mudguard mounts and triple bosses. Wheels: 35-622 Goodyear County tubeless-ready tyres, Sonder Nova 700C rims, 28 14a

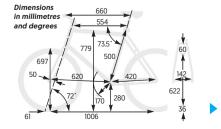
spokes front and rear. Sonder front hub, Sonder Nova rear hub. Transmission: FSA Vero Pro 48-32 chainset, FSA

MegaEvo bottom

bracket, SRAM PC1170 chain, SRAM PG-1130 11-32 cassette. SRAM Rival 22 shifters and front and rear derailleurs. 22 ratios, 27-119in. Braking: SRAM Rival 22 levers, Tektro MD-C500 cable discs. 160mm rotors. **Steering & seating:**

Grepp bar tape,

400×31.8mm Sonder Spitfire bar, 100mm Sonder Storc stem, FSA Orbit MX headset 1 1/8in, Brooks B17 Standard saddle. 27.2×400mm Sonder seatpost Equipment: 45mm SKS mudguards. Sonder Mool 18kg capacity rear rack, two bottle cages. alpkit.com



easier to recycle than those three materials, boosting both long-term value and the bikes' eco credentials.

As tourers, both bikes come with a wide array of fittings, with bottle and luggage bosses everywhere. Down tube and seat tube bosses are complemented by bosses under the down tube, while each has a fork festooned with fittings for racks, bottles or cargo cages for touring and bikepacking. Top tube 'bento box' bosses are the only absentee.

Components

Touring kit can come in different forms, and there are as many similarities as there are differences with our pair. The Surly has 26in wheels, a triple chainset - the cycle-tourist's friend - and a drivetrain that mixes an FSA chainset with Shimano's 9-speed Sora and Alivio.

The Sonder comes with 700C wheels, with a lower spoke count than the Surly's, and an 11-speed SRAM Rival setup with an FSA sub-compact chainset. While Rival nominally sits above Sora and Alivio, my experience is that you'll still





Top: Budget dual-piston cable disc brakes work fine Bottom: Brooks B17 saddle looks classy but will divide opinions as to comfort

the more budget-oriented Shimano components. SRAM's Double Tap levers take a little getting used

get a lot of mileage out of

to after Shimano's STI but after a couple of rides they become second nature: you press the right inner lever to change down, and tap it to change up. Simple, effective and the shifting was crisp and accurate. But while the 11-speed cassette means there are few big gaps on the cassette, I'd have liked a significantly lower bottom gear than 32/32 (27in). A more

compact 46-30 chainset and/or an 11-34 cassette would help. Wolf Tooth's nifty derailleur hanger extender would allow for an even bigger cassette.

The Surly's 26t inner chainring pairs with a 34t sprocket for a much lower and more touring-friendly bottom gear. Old school, yes, but thanks to its 20-113in range it would be my choice for any extended tour or even a regular hilly commute.

Braking on both bikes is by cableactuated disc brakes from the Tektro/TRP empire. The Surly gets the higher-level

L, XL. Weight: 12.8kg (28.2lb). Frame & fork: