

**CYCLING**  
**NEW**  
**BIKES**  
RIDDEN & RATED



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# NEILPRYDE ALIZE

**£4899** > All-new aero road bike from the longtime windsurfing experts

**N**eilPryde has more than 40 years' experience harnessing the elements to speed windsurfers over the waves. Its new Alize bike aims to cheat the wind to maximise land-based, two-wheeled power, and the result after extensive wind tunnel and CFD – computational fluid dynamics – modelling is blunt leading edges, oversized tubes and Kamm-tail (truncated teardrop) tube profiles for aerodynamics.

From the saddle, the overriding impression is not to take everything at face value; it's a good lesson in how the look and feel of a bike can be completely different. Aero road bikes typically have deep-section tubes with narrower frontal profiles that require greater stiffening to prevent lateral twisting, often resulting in a heavier frame with a harsher ride. The Alize's UD carbon frame

has a reasonably light claimed weight of 960g (L/56cm), with stiffening ribs in the top-tube, seat-tube and down-tube providing excellent lateral rigidity. The down-tube/seat-tube junction creates a huge bottom bracket area, housing a Press-Fit 30 BB, to which the one-piece asymmetric chainstay, dropout and seatstay assembly is mounted. With seatstays as large as the chainstays, it looked like being a rough ride, but a clever carbon layup in the rear triangle means the Alize's rear end is extremely comfortable for such an aggressive-looking bike.

The aero seatpost is available in a 78-degree TT/Triathlon version, and the seatpost clamp is neatly concealed within a rubber collar to smooth the junction and prevent water ingress.

Stand on the pedals, and the Alize reacts like a rapid road bike, the aero design hindering neither

response nor handling – as the Alize is as planted and stable as anything we've ridden. But it's also agile, not afraid of corners and has an incisive turn in from the solid front end. Its lateral rigidity, asymmetric stays and fine wheels give it no fear of gravity either, and it romps up climbs.

Shimano Dura-Ace mechanical is a joy, with swift shifting and great brakes, and the frame is also Di2 compatible. Mavic's Ksyrium SLS wheels are light, fast and reliable all-rounders, and the carbon matrix bar has a pleasing rearward sweep and good shock absorption. Our XL model still laughs in the face of the UCI 6.8kg limit, and with such a great blend of performance, comfort, and competitive pricing, the Alize deserves to go far. [www.neilprydebikes.com](http://www.neilprydebikes.com)

**SPECIFICATION** WEIGHT 6.65kg (XL/58cm) **FRAME** Carbon **FORK** Carbon **GEARS** Shimano Dura-Ace 9000 **BRAKES** Shimano Dura-Ace **WHEELS** Mavic Ksyrium SLS **FINISHING KIT** NeilPryde AL Matrix stem, NeilPryde CF Matrix bar, NeilPryde Aeroblade carbon seatpost, Selle Italia SLR XP saddle, Mavic Yksion Pro Powerlink 23mm tyres

**HIGHS** Acceleration, handling, comfort  
**LOWS** Too light for the UCI's regulations

**CYCLING RATING** ★★★★★