

UniqueNESS

By Gary Mraz
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2011 Cory Ness Victory Cross Country

Sometimes a name becomes inextricably entwined with objects and it's usually for its uniqueness. The Sphinx and the Pyramids for example, there are over 7000 documented pyramids on earth but say Sphinx and the great Pyramid of Giza comes to mind, at least visually.

What does this have to do with motorcycles? Absolutely nothing. But while shooting the 2011 Cory Ness Victory Cross Country at the CSULB pyramid it struck me that the name Arlen Ness and Victory possess that same mystique. As I contemplated the exquisite design of this new Ness I realized that Ness and Victory motorcycles have too become synonymous. When Arlen and Victory partnered in 2001 something magical happened and this evolves and expands every year. The 2011 Victory lineup now includes three generations of the Ness dynasty, Arlen, Cory & Zach.

A bone stock Cross Country will turn heads but Cory's is a downright stunner. Ness custom billet chrome handgrips and brake/foot controls compliment the stylish Ness mirrors. Toss in the sleek angular and very comfortable custom handlebars, sitting inside this cockpit you know you're on something special. Even the highway bars are re-sculpted with a vented design. Diamond cut heads shimmer in the sunlight as the freedom 106/6 engine with louder

stock pipes passes you by.

Yes it's the new Freedom V-Twin - 1,731cc (106 ci) 4-stroke 50-degree SOHC, 8-valve with electronic fuel injection, dual 45mm throttle body and split dual exhaust with crossover. The motor, which mates to an improved and enhanced six-speed constant mesh overdrive transmission, is capable of cranking out up to 97 horsepower, along with 113 pound feet of torque. Necks crane to catch a glimpse of this special edition Cory Ness Cross Country. Lowered suspension and seat height puts this bike only 22.4 inches above ground yet the deep suede seat comfortably hugs its riders. Anvil design 5 spoke wheels compliments the fluid trademark design beautifully. Then there's the paint, a perfect blended cocktail of color. It's a rich Sunset Red base coat accented by Blue and Black graphics on the fenders, fairing, tank and hard bags.

The Victory Cross series motorcycles offer customers more cargo space: largest in class. More load capacity: 580 lbs, highest in class. More comfort: most suspension travel in class and longest floorboards, and the lightest and fastest in class. More contemporary technology and design for less money than other manufacturers in its class. Keeping the styling cues and modern technology that are uniquely Victory, this touring cruiser is stunning.





AZ Victory's Black Cross



The Editor chimes in

How does the Victory Cross Country perform? It's December and I'm Heading North, to get some weather. I'll be packing clothes, toiletries, a Nelson-Rigg rain-suit, even a 1st Heat electric vest. This Victory Cross Country has 21 gallons of cargo capacity and I use every drop. Everything for a week's trip including water, snacks, street shoes, laptop, camera and even a tripod fits into the massive saddlebags. Kick stand up at 7 am, blasting the 40 watt stereo system and cruise control on, I own the road. Interstate 395 to Mono Lake begets plenty of time to ponder this new Cross Country. Esthetically the Cross Country is a modern stealth fighter, while simultaneously a far more traditional V-Twin than the Vision. Traveling hundreds of miles one appreciates amenities like XM radio or iPod and almost infinite possible leg positions of a cleverly designed floorboards and engine guards. Plush comfortable seating and efficient fairing aerodynamics make the Victory Cross Country at home on long journeys. At every stop somebody wanted to know what this bike was. How does it handle, I love the color, is this a custom, can you hear the stereo while riding, can I plug in my iPod and GPS, how's the power band?

Only one Cory Ness Cross Country is made available per dealer and my #2 is bold but not brash. It stands the test of time and this level of custom paint and chrome is refreshing to admire amidst the sea of matt black motorcycle fashion. It's hard to guess what future archeologists will surmise 2000 years from now when a Ness Victory Cross Country is unearthed but one thing's for sure - they will stand in awe of its uniqueness.



I was heading to AZ from CA for the Thunder Mountain Ride (and to meet with staff, but really to take in the Saints-Cardinals game) and I wanted something new to ride. I had heard about the blacked-out Victory Cross Country that AZ. Victory was doing, a unique package that only they offer, and I was intrigued. When I found out they were even slapping custom pipes on, I grabbed it for the weekend and put about 400 miles on her.

AZ. Victory dubs it "The Dark Side." They start with a standard Cross Country and basically take nearly anything shiny, and black the hell out of it. Everything from bag latches to the tail light mounts to the fork lowers, from the brake and clutch levers to the handlebars to the dash bezel, is deep and dark. Then they install some extras, again in the black motif, like tank badges, highway pegs, a passenger backrest (complete with blacked out brackets), and a smoked Cee Bailey windshield. Then they throw on an HID headlight, an I-pod kit, a complete exhaust system by Arizona

Slammers (black of course, and throatier than stock even during the break-in mileage) and they lower the whole thing 2 inches. The result is a modern, comfortable tourer that looks more like an old school heavyweight street cruiser. It's cool, it's fun, yet refined and practical.

Now I'm not sure I'm ready to give up my chopper, but if I needed a badass looking tourer (ya know, to actually GO somewhere) I'd give this one serious consideration. As great as it was on the highways and freeways, as fun as it was in the twisties on the beautiful ride up to Payson, and as comfortable as Lisa was on the back (she actually fell asleep), when I got off I kept finding myself turning to look back at her (the bike) from different angles. And most of those angles didn't disappoint.

CD

