

Road Trip: VEGAS BABY!

Viva Las Vegas! But that's not where I'm going today. The road is Glendora Mountain road and the bike is a Victory Vegas. It's a rider's paradise up here with some of the best twisties and vistas you could ask for. Connecting to Highway 39 it spits out in Azusa Canyon about 60 miles later. Cycle Dragon in Cerritos was kind enough to loan me a Vegas for a test ride. As I charged onto the freeway and hit 70 mph I kicked in 6th gear and she settled into a very comfortable stride. This sleek black Vegas had gorgeous red tribal pinstipping (factory) and a set of optional accessory factory pipes provided a very respectable note. This model had the small factory windscreen, floorboards and saddlebags. The saddlebag had ample space for all my needs, and out of habit I always bring leathers and chaps for inclement weather. I immediately found the Brembo brakes confident and responsive. Glendora mountain road is a favorite for sport bikes, and I mean serious knee-draggers. I take my time but love to lean into the twisties and the Vegas afforded ample ground clearance for me. The bike's tourquey 100 cubic inch engine provides enough power to aggressively pull against gravity and engine compression furnished enough drag to slow down when needed. Riding back the 39 (which has fewer twisties) I rarely touched the brakes. Some long empty stretches allowed me to grab some throttle and each gear pulled some serious G's and 100 mph hits you pretty fast. I really couldn't get off this bike and kept riding until I got home to Long Beach. I've ridden all flavors of motorcycles and have a Sporty and Road King in the garage but I really like these Victories. **I can't even tell you why, I'm no gearhead,** just a rider. Is the center of gravity creating better maneuverability and handling? Is their rising-rate rear suspension creating such a smooth ride? Is it the 100 and new (106) cubic inch V-Twin engine that really pulls in every gear? (And I do like six of them). Can someone please tell me because the thing looks so damn cool my Sporty is now for sale! The 2008 line-up is really strong with the Vegas Jackpot, Vegas Low and the Vegas 8-Ball (starting at \$13,599). I'm going to plead with Cycle Dragon for a test ride on a Hammer S next! Personally I feel Victory motorcycles have become a very strong contender in the American Motorcycle ring. With the strength of Polaris, a 50-year-old motor-sports manufacturer, this new kid on the block may just get the respect they deserve.

Special thanks to the John Pucchiarelli of Cycle Dragon,
www.cycledragon.com 562-468-1980.

