



# 7 REASONS WHY

## 29ERS ARE FINDING A HOME ON THE SHORE

\*The latest generation of 29ers is up to the task. For years, conventional wisdom has held that 29ers perform poorly in steep, technical terrain, and even worse in the air. But bike manufacturers have improved geometry, which has greatly improved handling. Frames are available with more travel, too. Bikes like Santa Cruz's Tallboy, Niner's W.F.O. 9 and Gary Fisher's Rumblefish allow riders to tackle terrain that was deemed off-limits just months ago.

\*"If you know how to maneuver a bike, if you can jack the brake and swing the rear end around, a 29er can be a weapon on these trails," says freeride pioneer Wade Simmons, who's been riding a Rocky Mountain Altitude 29er on the legendary technical trails of Vancouver's North Shore.

\*The big-wheeled bikes are enabling riders to scale the Shore's technical terrain in new ways. Climbing its steep, root-infested trails is far easier on a 29er than on the DH and long-travel freeride bikes that have dominated the Shore for years. "You can actually take different lines with a 29er," Simmons says. "You can just attack roots and ledges."

\*Twenty-niner components are now being designed for aggressive riding. Fox's 4.7-inch-travel 32 F29 FIT RLC fork and Edge's super-stiff, super-wide carbon wheels, for example, allow riders to tackle those slimy roots and slick rocks with more confidence. "The feedback we're getting is that some riders are looking for bigger, fatter tires," says Rob Perkins, the marketing coordinator for Maxxis, which recently introduced the aggressive, 2.4-inch-wide Ardent 29.

\*It's addictive. "Once you get used to big wheels and how well they roll, little wheels *do* feel small," Simmons says. "You have to cut the rear wheel around, but with a bit of body English, the bike is fun."

\*According to Simmons, the big wheels are even better in the air than once believed. "The timing is a bit strange at first, but once you do it, it's not that bad. It's just about adjusting your timing. But they're stable as all hell."

\*After a few days of riding on the Shore, Simmons offered this final assessment: "29ers might not be *the* future, but they're one way of getting there." —LOU MAZZANTE