

REVIEW: '09 Hyosung GV650 Aquila

REVIEW BY HEIN JONKER

There are very few Cruisers out there that truly impresses me and I thought we had run out of options until Brendon asked me to ride their pride and joy. At first glance this bike took me by surprise, yes it may have more plastic "bling" bits than some other cruisers, but the looks, sound and handling of this bike truly made me think ... we have a winner here!!

Even the price, yes keeping our financial issues in mind, makes this stunning choice for affordability and style. Hyosung's GV650 is the fastest, best equipped and most affordable middleweight cruiser money can buy.

Some tech specs to enlighten you:

647cc 2-cylinder motor with 70bhp @ 9000rpm, weighing 218kg with a 705mm seat height and running on a 16litre fuel tank.

As for the handling and comfort, the Koreans have really done their homework ... belt-drive, perfectly placed handlebars, digital instrument panel, comfy seat and very responsive on swerves and weaves. The performance of the Aquila is exactly what you can expect from a 650-twin, more than enough "ponies" through all the gears. You can easily take this bike out on the long and twisty or to work and back and kit it out with optional accessories like a higher screen, backrest for your passenger and saddlebags for all your goodies.

So here you have it; the perfect reason to to get up and ride in style and peace of mind.

PRICE: R69 990.00 (Incl. 14% VAT)



Bike City

Tel: (031) 464 8505

Shop 57/62 Malvern Centre
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Every now and then you get the opportunity to ride someone else's bike; well I did. I don't want to mention any names as we might've broken a few landspeed records that day, but a friend of mine let me ride his bike just after he built it up from scratch ... new panels, new paint job etc.

It is not everyday I get to ride a Suzuki, seeing that Suzuki SA can not even make a Demo Model available through one of their local dealers. Who's to blame; the Dealer or Suzuki, I guess we'll never know. Is this a challenge to see more of Suzuki in future Bike Talks ... you bet ya!!

Well the ride started off a bit slow due to a drizzle we had in the morning, but I eventually had ample time and opportunity to push this beast to a point where I thought ... "who's gonna give, me or the bike?" Yeah, I know, I ended up being the chicken. For a stock standard bike it performed well over my expectations and I could feel my helmet pushing off my head as the "horns" started to grow and grow until ... Oops what was that flash?! Must've been someone playing with a torch on the side of the road.

Riding the "gixer" like I did, I couldn't help but miss my R1 days. Well enough of that, this bike is truly a beast in blue "Bulls" and the best place to play with this type of machine is on the track. Yes, do yourself a favour, before you go scraping around on the roads, take it to the track ... no RTI, no Taxi, no Cow, no Pedestrian just you wrapped over your 1st ... OH!! 2nd love having the time of your life. Thanks "J" for a lekka ride!