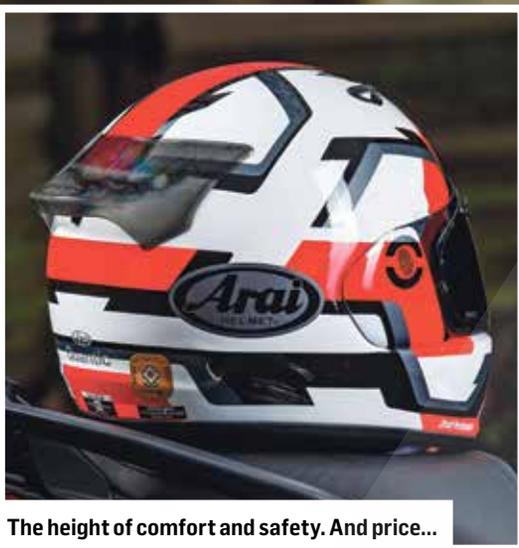


TRIED & TESTED

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT



5000 MILES



The height of comfort and safety. And price...



Arai Quantic 'Face' helmet £599.99

'The lid that fits like a glove'

Tested by Richard Newland for five months/5000 miles



Helmets currently fall into two main safety categories – those that are ECE22.06 (the latest safety standard), and those that aren't. The Quantic one of a handful of helmets currently on the market that conform to the new protection baseline (which sees helmet impact testing at higher and lower speeds than 22.05, and crucially introduces an angled impact test to simulate rotational forces).

The Quantic is a typical Arai evolution, blending only the tech and features they're happy to introduce with their trademark 'R75' shell design ethos. This means no internal sun visor, no sharp styling angles or rigid vents and spoilers. The large rear exhaust/spoiler on the Quantic is designed to crumple or detach in an accident, while the inlet vents are all minimal in scale and design impact, meaning they're flush to the shell or will sheer off, rather than gripping or snagging the scenery.

Despite less visible venting than the RX-7V,

the airflow is actually increased through the helmet, keeping you cool on warm days with chin, brow, forehead and top-mounted inlets and multiple exhausts. Despite all the vents, once closed I've suffered no water ingress during persistent rain, and you can exclude almost all unwanted draughts on cold days, meaning it's a great performer all year round.

The visor mechanism is the same as the RX-7V, with two recessed levers releasing the smooth side pods and detaching the visor simultaneously. The Pinlock aperture is great, meaning no eclipsed or interrupted view.

There's no doubt the Quantic is best suited for sporty riding positions, as I find the brow vent – secluded within the Arai logo – does generate wind noise (even when closed) if your head is in an upright touring attitude. But dip your head and it's super-quiet again. Every vent, and the large visor lock lever, is a doddle to use through even the thickest gloves.

The fit and finish is superb, and there are recesses for speakers if you're a connected sort of human, while the shell has flat areas

on its sides for easy device mounting. The nose and chin visors are effective, and I find it easy to slide my glasses into place. The chin strap is a double-D buckle, the liner is removable and washable – and customisable for best fit – and it also boasts emergency quick-release cheek pads.

Stunning comfort from the first wear, beautifully finished and with top-level safety credentials, it's one of my favourite helmets of all time. There's nothing to dislike other than the price.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.whyarai.co.uk

PROS & CONS

- +** Lovely quality, superb fit, great comfort, top spec
- Brow vent can create wind noise, price tag, and that's it...



Rear spoiler is designed to detach in a crash



Excellent weatherproof vents