NEW MEETS OLD
Richa didn't feel hidebound (pardon the pun) in material selection for the classy Retro Racing Black Edition. Traditional leather and cotton meet modern synthetics.



▼ Pockets double up as cooling vents



▼ Well-built – and looks good, too

RIDE MAGAZINE RECOMMENDED

2 Richa Retro Racing £389.99

The feel of a class jacket with features to match

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This is the Black Edition of Richa's Retro Racing jacket we're testing here – and very black it is indeed.

The 1.3 mm cowhide leather is very supple, so the jacket immediately feels nicely broken in from the outset. There is some understated but classy suede detailing, with a couple of panels on the upper arms and racing stripes down the sleeves.

The Black Edition has a CE AA rating and features Level 1 D3O protectors in the arms, shoulders and back. Richa also offer upgrades to these in the form of thinner, lighter protectors, but the equipment as fitted doesn't hamper rider movement.

There is also zip-out thermal waistcoat liner, extending the Black Edition's useful riding season. You can confidently go out in this jacket earlier in spring and later in autumn. The liner zips on to two rather classy cotton sections that back the main zip area. There are also cotton gussets at the wrists that can provide some venting.

The retro round collar has neoprene along its top edge that fits closely but comfortably to seal the neck, while poppered tabs at the waist give the choice of a closer fit. There is a short internal connector zip for suitable riding trousers, too.

Storage space is good with four external and one internal zipped pockets. The upper outer pockets also double up as vents for warmer days.

Conclusion Plenty of armour and substantial build make this a confidence-inspiring jacket from the off.

'Some understated but classy suede detailing'

THE FACTS

Material: Leather outer, polyester inner
CE Rating: AA
Armour rating: Level 1
Armour included: Shoulders, elbows
Back protector included: Yes
Thermal layer: Yes
Ventilation: Top pockets, wrist gussets
Pockets: 4 external, 1 internal
Adjustments: Waist
Size tested: EU52
Sizes available: EU48-62
Colours available: Black
Weight: 3.1kg (including back protector)

THE SCORES

COMFORT
FIT
BUILD QUALITY
CONFIDENCE
VERSATILITY

TOTAL 39/50