

IGNITION

Icon Motorcycles' IconSheene is remarkably the best tribute to the late racer

A Perfect Tribute to Barry Sheene

ANDREW MORRIS, A TALENTED BRITISH BUSINESSMAN who also happens to be a hardcore Barry Sheene admirer, recently unveiled a naked superbike at the prestigious Goodwood Festival of Speed, dedicated to the late legend Barry Sheene.

This bike has been named 'IconSheene' and is meant to represent the extraordinary image of the racer. It is designed and built by Andrew's motorcycle company, Icon Motorcycles, in association with individuals and companies that have been associated with Barry Sheene in the past.

The appearance of this street fighter is quite radical, but the main attraction is its engine. Icon Motorcycles have used a Suzuki GSX-R 1100 engine, which was originally an air/oil-cooled unit that produced 158 PS of power and 114.7 Nm of torque. The engineers at Icon have tuned the engine to specifications that are mind-boggling. For starters they have bored the engine from 1,100 cc to 1,400 cc, fitted it with a Garrett turbocharger and replaced the con-rods with high-performance Carrello con-rods. Stock pistons have been taken out to make way for new and better Wiseco pistons; wiring has been done using top-notch Motech Formula One wires, not to forget the handcrafted aluminum oil coolers and stainless steel exhaust.

Bosch engine management system, digital instrumentation, keyless starting and F-1 spec wiring are some of the other features of this machine. The outcome of this heavy modding is an engine that now produces 253 PS of power and 180 Nm of torque, making it the most powerful production motorcycle in the world.

Cycle parts like frame, wheels and brakes are also of superior quality. The frame that supports the engine is an all-aluminum, purpose-built Spondon tubular frame that features a Fabrication Techniques all-aluminum swingarm. The front and rear suspension comes from Bitubo and brakes are sourced from ISR with wheels that are completely done in carbon-fibre. Bodywork is also done up in carbon-fibre with only the petrol tank being hand-built using aluminum.

Now comes the exclusive part. Only 52 of these beauties will make it to production, because that is exactly the number of years Barry Sheene was amongst us. Another thing that makes this bike an exclusive piece of machinery is the price tag, which reads Rs. 74.7lakh (UK). The price may be high, but is worth it considering the pride of owning a bike that draws its inspiration from the great Barry Sheene, two time world champion!



The yokes have Barry and his wife Stephanie's signatures engraved on them

