

The fork's wide blades contribute to its aero speed (a), the rear wheel tucks into the frame for responsiveness (b) and the aero bar adjusts for comfort (c).



GIANT Aeryn 1

FLY LIKE THE WIND

Women are flocking to the sport of triathlon, and more bikes are being built for these athletes. The Giant Aeryn 1

is one of the latest. It's a women-specific version of Giant's Trinity 1 multisport machine, with a shorter top tube and taller head tube, which create a tighter cockpit that suits women's smaller torso proportions—but the rest of the race-ready features remain the same. The steep, 78-degree seat-tube angle helps you put power to your pedals and saves energy in your glutes and hamstrings (for the running leg) while you comfortably crank along in a wind-cheating tuck.

On the road, the Aeryn 1 is quick from the start and handles confidently, even while buffeted by 20-mph crosswinds. The aluminum frame provides a punchy, responsive ride, and the carbon fork blades help buffer road chatter. The Vision TriMax aerobars can be cut for a spot-on fit and the elbow pads are perfectly positioned to create a low-drag front profile yet keep your chest cavity open for easy breathing. The pads are far enough forward that you can get out of the saddle on climbs without banging your knees into your elbows. The Dura-Ace bar-end shifters and mid-level Shimano 105 derailleur and brakes are crisp and reliable.

Though not as light or lightning quick as its pricier all-carbon peers, the Aeryn 1 is a lot of bike for under two grand, which Tiffany Brown, the women's program manager at Giant, says is precisely the point. "We didn't want women to feel like they had to pay \$5,000 or \$6,000 to be competitive," she says. With the Aeryn 1, they have a chance to stay in the game for a long, long time. —Selene Yeager

Buy it: If you're in the market for a great triathlon-specific bike you won't outgrow in just a few seasons

Forget it: If you've decided to chase the podium this year

\$1,725

- SIZES → XS, S, M (tested)
- WEIGHT → 18.8 lb. (M, claimed)
- FRAME → ALUXX SL-grade aluminum, Aero Design
- FORK → Advanced-grade composite w/ aluminum steerer
- COMPONENT HIGHLIGHTS → Shimano 105 derailleurs, brakes, Dura-Ace bar-end 10-speed shifters; Tektro RX 4.1 brake levers; Race Face Cadence TRI crankset (53/39); Giant Aero 42mm wheels, aluminum base bar w/ Vision TriMax clip-ons

