

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 22 OCTOBER 2018**

***bikesales.com.au Bike of the Year to be determined in Tasmania***

[bikesales.com.au](http://bikesales.com.au) team will be hitting the roads of Tasmania this week, from October 22 to 24, to decide the bikesales Bike of the Year [BOTY].

Mark Fattore, Editor of [bikesales.com.au](http://bikesales.com.au), said: "Tasmania was chosen as the destination to determine our 2018 overall winner due to the quality and versatility of the state's roads, plus the scenery is spectacular, creating perfect riding conditions."

The 2018 bikesales BOTY Awards, recognises excellence across 11 motorcycle categories, with the winners of each category [listed below], qualifying as finalists for the overall award.

"Only nine of the 11 finalists will travel to Tasmania," revealed Fattore. "By default the Enduro and Motocross category winners are ineligible for the overall gong as they're off-road bikes and unable to partake in the on-road testing," he explained.

Nine expert judges will assess the bikes against set criteria, which includes:

- Engine and drivetrain
- Brakes and handling
- Build quality
- Value for money
- Fit for purpose (does the bike live up to its potential)

"After three-day mega-testing, which will see us travel from the East Coast to the West Coast of Tasmania [refer to route below], our judges will whittle down our finalist shortlist to three – with the overall winner to be announced at the Melbourne Moto Expo on Friday, November 23," revealed Fattore.

"Travelling to Tasmania is a big logistical event but the process has been made easier with the help of the team at the Spirit of Tasmania. Our judges, support crew and most importantly the finalist bikes, will travel to and from Tasmania aboard the Spirit of Tasmania," Fattore concluded.

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**11 award categories for bikesales Bike of the Year are:**

CATEGORIES	DESCRIPTION	WINNER
<a href="#"><u>SUPERSPORT*</u></a>	Track/sport road-focussed bike with full fairing and screen and forward-inclined riding position. Any engine capacity permitted.	<b>Ducati Panigale V4S</b>
<a href="#"><u>CRUISER*</u></a>	Unfaired road-focussed bike with raked front end (28 degrees rake or more), no screen and a low seat height (under 760mm). Any engine capacity; heritage/modern/power cruisers permitted.	<b>Harley-Davidson Fat Bob 114</b>
<a href="#"><u>SCOOTER</u></a>	Feet-forward, rear-engined road-focussed vehicle with automatic transmission. Any engine capacity; includes maxi-scooters as well as pure commuters and retro/heritage models.	<b>Kymco AK550</b>
<a href="#"><u>NAKED*</u></a>	Unfaired roadster with relatively upright riding position. Any engine capacity; small flyscreen or bikini cowl permitted. Retro or performance models accepted.	<b>Yamaha's MT-09SP</b>
<a href="#"><u>TOURING</u></a>	Road-focussed bike with upright riding position and large screen, plus factory-fitted panniers. Any engine capacity and major mile-eating ability.	<b>BMW K 1600 B Grand America.</b>
<a href="#"><u>SPORTSTOURING*</u></a>	Fully or half-faired road-focussed bike that balances sporting ability with comfort. Any engine capacity permitted, supplied with or without factory panniers.	<b>KTM's 1290 Super Duke GT</b>
<a href="#"><u>ADVENTURE TOURING*</u></a>	Dual-purpose bike with on-road/off-road focus. Wire-spoked rims and naked or half fairing, with an upright ride position. Must be able to carry luggage; any engine capacity permitted.	<b>Honda Africa Twin Adventure Sports</b>
<a href="#"><u>ADVENTURE SPORT*</u></a>	Road-focussed adventure bike with light off-road ability. Cast alloy rims and naked or half fairing, with an upright ride position. Must be able to carry luggage; any engine capacity permitted.	<b>BMW S 1000 XR</b>

<a href="#"><u>ENDURO</u></a>	Road-registrable off-road bike with trail or competition focus. Off-road (but road legal) knobby tyres, long-travel suspension and no fairing. Any engine capacity permitted.	<b>Gas Gas EC 300</b>
<a href="#"><u>MOTOCROSS</u></a>	Competition-only, performance-focussed, non-registrable off-road bike. Off-road (non-road-legal) knobby tyres, long-travel suspension and no fairing. Any engine capacity permitted.	<b>Kawasaki KX450</b>
<a href="#"><u>RETRO/CAFÉ*</u></a>	Any road-registrable motorcycle with styling cues reminiscent of models from the 1980s or earlier. Any engine capacity permitted.	<b>Kawasaki Z900RS Cafe</b>

### Route

#### **Day 1 – Monday, October 22**

Devonport to Bicheno.

334km (4hr 39mins)

#### **Day 2 – Tuesday, October 23**

Bicheno to Queenstown.

356km (4hr 50mins)

#### **Day 3 – Wednesday, October 24**

Queenstown to Devonport.

214km (2hr 53mins)