



*Editor's Note: There may be somebody who knows more about the history of motorcycles and motorcycle design than Jay Leno, but we don't know who it would be. And whoever that might be, we're sure he wouldn't be nearly as much fun to talk to. Jay thought about his sexiest-bikes picks for about three seconds and*

*then gave us his top 10...er, 11 picks, right off the top of his head. (Hey, he's allowed to "go to 11"...he's Jay!)*

*As usual, Jay gave us a combination laugh-fest and history lesson. If history had been this much fun in school, we might not have dropped out and turned into feckless motorcycle journalists.*

# JAY'S 10 SEXIEST BIKES

By Jay Leno



Y2K JET BIKE

## 1. 1956 MOTO GUZZI V-8 500CC GP BIKE

The sexiest motorcycle? I'd have to pick the Guzzi V-8 GP bike. I mean, it was an eight-cylinder motorcycle. You have to understand that in those days, a four-cylinder motorcycle was really something. But this was just outrageous. It was mind blowing; it just shook the

whole motorcycling world. That little 500cc engine with valves the size of golf tees. And it was all covered up with the dustbin fairing of that era, so it was all hidden. It was kind of like a beautiful woman wearing a full-length dress that covers everything—it's sexier because you can't see what's under there, and you know that

what's under there is just breathtaking.

## 2. 1966 HONDA RC166 SIX-CYLINDER 250CC GP BIKE

This one's right up there with the Guzzi. When this thing came out, especially in that famous photo with Mike Hailwood on it, and those six exhaust pipes sticking out the back, it really put motorcycles on the map. Especially with all the car guys, because it was so advanced. They were all excited about Formula 1 cars and that technology, but this showed the world that motorcycles could be just as sophisticated—maybe even more so.

## 3. CURTISS V-8 SPEED-RECORD BIKE

Of course, the first Curtiss V-8 motorcycle was also really sexy. You know, a V-8 in a motor-

cycle, in that era, was just frightening, just crazy. Cars didn't even have V-8s then! It was incredibly potent, incredibly powerful for its day. It was unbelievable that Glen Curtiss could even ride the thing. He ran something like 136 mph on it on the beach near Daytona. And that was way back in 1907. It was the fastest anybody had gone, ever, faster than any car.

## 4. 1979 HONDA CBX

I think the CBX—the original '79 naked one—was one of the best-looking motorcycles ever built. I mean, that huge engine sitting there, stretched out across that spindly frame. And those skinny little fork tubes—it reminded me of a girl with skinny legs, but with really big breasts. It was just eye-catching; you just had to look at it.



MV AGUSTA F4 SERIE ORO

### 5. 1998 MV AGUSTA F4 SERIE ORO

Any MV Agusta is a contender, but my favorite is the F4 Serie Oro. It's just a beautiful design—very sexy. It's just sculpture.

### 6. 1936 HARLEY-DAVIDSON KNUCKLEHEAD

I think this was just a very pretty, very classic-looking Harley.

### 7. 1923 HENDERSON FOUR MODEL K

These were just amazing for their time. In an era when a V-twin-engine motorcycle was really something, [here] was a four. The Henderson Four was just outrageous and excessive. When you rode up on one of these in the '20s, every-

body just stopped and stared.

### 8. 1972 KAWASAKI 750 MACH IV

These were just supposed to be so fast, they were scary; they had a reputation of being almost too fast to ride. With those skinny forks and that flexy frame, was it going to go into this terrifying speed wobble, was it going to spit you off? It was like dating J. Lo; you knew it was going to be exciting. But it was also going to be more trouble than you'd bargained for.

### 9. 1952 VINCENT BLACK SHADOW

This has to be on any list of the sexiest motorcycles, just in terms of its sheer image and its

potency. There was the menace of it, the big black V-twin engine—and the name certainly didn't hurt. This was sort of a peak British motorcycle; it was seen as the performance leader of its time. Not to mention that photo of Rollie Free going 150 mph on a Vincent wearing nothing but his bathing suit. That was probably the most published motorcycle photo of all time.

### 10. 1978 DUCATI 900SS

I like the late-'70s SSs with the half fairing, so you can see that wonderful engine. This has to make the list just because it's so beautiful, so Italian. Those big 90-degree bevel-gear motors were just stunning to look at,

with all those flowing, sculpted aluminum parts.

### 11. Y2K JET BIKE

I've got to go with the Y2K Jet Bike as one of the all-time sexiest. It's the most fun, because it's a bike—and it's a jet. And because it's the best-ever motorcycle for shutting up the Harley guys. You know how it goes—we've all been there. You pull up to your favorite biker hangout on a Hayabusa or some tricked-out Japanese bike and they say things. You know, "nice rice rocket," that kind of thing.

But when you pull up on the Y2K with it sounding like an F-18 Hornet and making 350 horsepower, they go, "OK." They give it up right there. **MG**

