

MV Agusta *Brutale* 989R

Review: *Matt Bennett*

The first review for the series is the MV Agusta Brutale 989R motorcycle, loaned to us by the helpful team at Paul Feeny Group (PFG) who distribute the three quality European Marques of MV Agusta, Cagiva and Husqvarna.

The first thing that struck me when the PFG team introduced to me to the Brutale 989R was the immediate visual impact. This bike grabs you by the retinas and makes you want to follow every line, appreciating the attention to detail in even the smallest features. It is the kind of bike you want to just stop and look at for a while, taking it all in, even before firing up the beast.

This bike stands out as a truly brilliant piece of functional art. The number of people that approached me over the weekend asking to check it out up close further identified this as a bike that will get noticed everywhere you go. MV Agusta have carefully designed a naked motorcycle that has a balance of function and style that matches the performance and character of the Brutale perfectly.

Awakening the beast by thumbing the starter, your auditory senses are filled with a unique, almost aggressive, rasping symphony of sound. It invites you to climb on board and ride, with a subtle warning that this could be addictive. It also leaves no doubt you are at the business end of the ride, it revs freely and wants to get out on the tarmac. It is a bike that wants to be ridden, the kind of bike that is as much about the passion of riding as the engineering that delivers the

promise of adventure. In short it is just under a litre of pure excitement.

The 982cc engine, makes around 140bhp and 9.8kgm of torque. With a dry weight of 185kg, accelerates from zero to 100km/h in 4.7 seconds, and has a claimed top speed of over 250km/h. In fact, the 989R is so good, that I can't imagine what the 1078RR would be like!

The riding position is comfortable, semi upright and provides a commanding view over the instruments to the rapidly approaching horizon in front of you, however, this is not a bike for very tall people, I am

just on six foot and could still fit my knees under the "wings" on the beautifully sculpted tank, but anyone taller than me might find it a little cramped. I was not a fan of the foot pegs as I found my feet a little too prone to slipping off. But all in all a couple of very minor flaws with an otherwise superb bike.

The 989R's chassis is a chrome-molybdenum trellis frame with single-sided swing arm. There is plenty of feedback from the bike to rider, and it handles like a Superbike

with super sharp steering through the corners and superb stability.

The gearbox is six-speed with precise shifts and good solid feel.

The front brakes get radial-mount four-piston calipers, and the suspension – 50mm rear mono shock – is

USD forks and multi-adjustable.



The MV Agusta Brutale 989R's build quality is impeccable, all components are top-spec and everything feels like it's been designed with great care – all the parts work together in perfect harmony. This is a riders bike that loves to get ridden and noticed, and if I had another garage space I would probably have already signed up for one, In short the only real down side to the 989R was handing it back to PFG at the end of the weekend.

MV Agusta Brutale 989R.
RRP \$25,900 + orc

For further information see:

<http://www.mvagusta.com.au>

