



Bicycling.com

September 2011

Gear & Bike Review

Featuring: BCF Verve 10

Monthly Traffic: 293,600

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/3txc42l>

Women's Verve 10 Hydration Pack, Breast Cancer Edition

MSRP : \$84.00

Issue : Sep 2011

G.o.t.D. '11

I've become so numb to the ubiquitous pink ribbon that it's rare when a special-edition breast cancer awareness product catches my eye. So when I spotted this amethyst-hued hydration pack and learned that Osprey donates \$4 of the purchase price to the nonprofit Breast Cancer Fund, I was intrigued. With its strong-yet-feminine color and subtle graphics of prayer flags that Fund supporters use to communicate inspirational messages, the pack doesn't scream cliché.



As for functionality, the lightweight pack features an outer mesh pocket and two zippered pockets, the divided main one big enough to stow several spare tubes, CO2 canisters, cell phone, and enough food for hours on the trail. The reservoir holds 100 ounces of fluid, more than enough for my weekend afternoon trail excursions. The bladder contains no BPA or PVC, so water doesn't take on a plastic aftertaste, and an antimicrobial coating prevents germiness. Thanks to an anatomically contoured shape, the pack is comfy to wear and doesn't bounce around or slide.

Additional features: A bungee-tethered "lid lock" on the back of the pack lets you secure your helmet on long hike-a-bikes. Unfortunately, the bungee broke the very first time I tried to attach mine—a glitch Osprey assured me almost never happens. And they'll happily repair it gratis as part of their generous All-Mighty Guarantee ("Osprey will repair for any reason, free of charge, any damage or defect in our product – whether it was purchased in 1974 or yesterday"). Other thoughtful features include a key hook inside the main pocket so you don't have to dig for your car keys back at the trailhead, and a strong magnet in the bite valve that sticks solidly to the buckle of the sternum strap

