

FERNIE TEST '05



Written by **MARTIN OLSON** Test Co-ordinator **JOE GRIERSON**
Assistants **TYLER CARSON** and **KAREN PEPPER** Photography by **HENRY GEORGI**

WOMEN

WENDY ANDERSON

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'2", 120 lbs, 30 Personal Ski: Head Atomic Style: Technical Expert Started Skiing: Minnesota Home Resort: Fernie Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Volant, Atomic, Blizzard Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Dynamic, Atomic, Volant

ALLYSON BOWER

Ht, Wt, Age: 6'2", 170 lbs, 32 Personal Ski: Salomon Style: Athletic, Finesse Started Skiing: Grouse Mt, B.C. Home Resort: Sun Peaks Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Salomon, Rossignol, Atomic Top 3 All-Mt Picks: K2, Head, Volant

LAURALEE BOWIE

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'4", 134 lbs, 43 Sponsor: Head Tyrolia Style: Aggressive, Finesse; former World Champion freestyle skier, director of Lauralee Bowie Adventures Started Skiing: Calgary area Home Resort: Whistler Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Head, Dynamic, Rossignol Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Head, Blizzard, Atomic

COLLEEN DUNN

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'8", 165 lbs, 42 Sponsor: Rossignol Style: Advanced, Technical; CSIA

3, CSCF 2 Started Skiing: Jasper Home Resort: Fernie Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Rossignol, Dynamic, Atomic Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Rossignol, Volant, Elan

ALANNAH GAMBLIN

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'7", 150 lbs, 28 Sponsor: Dynastar Style: Aggressive, Expert; CSIA 2, CSCF 2, NCCP 3, BA Phys Ed Started Skiing: Smokey Mt, Labrador Home Resort: Sunshine/Lake Louise Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Dynastar, Head, Dynamic Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Rossignol, Volant, Head

HOLLY JONES

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'10", 150 lbs, 29 Sponsor: Dynastar Style: Aggressive, Racer; CSCF 2 Started Skiing: Horseshoe Valley, Ont. Home Resort: Sunshine/ Lake Louise Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Salomon, Atomic, Volant Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Rossignol, Head, Dynastar

JANET KUIJT

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'5", 125 lbs, 37 Personal Ski: Atomic Style: Advanced, All-Mountain Started Skiing: Loch Lomond, Ont. Home Resort: Fernie Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Rossignol, Salomon, K2 Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Volant, K2, Rossignol

WENDY LEMOINE

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'5", 150 lbs, 45 Sponsor: Head Tyrolia Style: Expert; CSIA 4, CSCF 3 Started Skiing: Carling Lake, P.Q. Home Resort: Fernie Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Atomic, Head, Salomon Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Atomic, Volant, Blizzard

HEIDI LEONARD

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'5", 145 lbs, 24 Personal Ski: Atomic Style: Advanced, Finesse; APSI 1, CSIA 2 Started Skiing: Mt Hotham, Australia Home Resort: Searchmont, Ont. Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Salomon, Dynastar, Dynamic Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Dynamic, Blizzard, Atomic

WENDY LUMBY

Ht, Wt, Age: 5', 120 lbs, 37 Sponsor: Rossignol Style: Aggressive, Expert Started Skiing: Happy Valley, Alta. Home Resort: Panorama, B.C. Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Head, Nordica, Blizzard Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Head, Dynamic, Elan

JOANNA MCGEE

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'9", 150 lbs, 29 Personal Ski: Atomic Style: Versatile, Expert Started Skiing: Lake Louise Home Resort:

Lake Louise Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks:

Rossignol, Blizzard, Head Top 3 All-Mt Picks: K2, Head, Atomic

JILL SAGAN

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'9", 130 lbs, 27 Personal Ski: Nordica Style: Athletic, Finesse; CSIA 3, CSCF 2 Started Skiing: Lake Louise Home Resort: Kicking Horse, B.C. Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Volant, Head, Rossignol Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Rossignol, Atomic, Elan

LISA SUUTARI

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'6", 135 lbs, 36 Sponsor: Salomon Style: Technical, Athletic; CSIA 4, CSCF 2, CASI 1 Started Skiing: Ontario Home Resort: Osler Bluff, Ont. Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Salomon, Head, Atomic Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Salomon, Dynastar, Head

ANNE TERWIEL

Ht, Wt, Age: 5'9", 138 lbs, 40 Sponsor: Head Style: Expert, Athletic; CSIA 3, CSCF 2 Started Skiing: Caledon Hills, Ont. Home Resort: Sun Peaks Top 3 HP On-Piste Picks: Atomic, Head, Elan Top 3 All-Mt Picks: Head, K2, Salomon

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HIGH-PERFORMANCE ON-PISTE

"Carving" like "carbs" is one of those words that eventually we've heard so many times it has no meaning. Carving means that the tail of the ski follows the track set by the tip leaving a narrow groove scribed in the snow. Sounds simple but it requires practice, strength and balance to make it happen. It also requires the right skis. And once all those components come together, a strange thing happens. Good skiers are content to spend hours on groomed slopes for the thrill of G-forces and speed that only comes with true carving. The best skis in this class have a lot of shape and torsional stiffness to hold that shape on hard snow as they deliver the edge bite and rebound energy that make carving one of the great sensations in skiing. If your skiing days are spent on groomers and you are Ze Butcher of Ze Hill, then this category has your ride.

TEST CONDITIONS

The Fernie crew was poised to fly into action as lifts closed the day before. They groomed the slush on Dancer into a carpet and let the sub-zero temperatures overnight do the rest. Testers went to work on a long, steep slope that should be tackled only by good skiers on razor-sharp skis. It was the perfect venue to discover the limits of skis made for no-limits groomer-slicing.



▲ Women ▼ Men

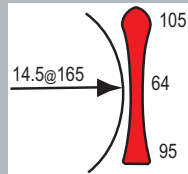
ATOMIC BETA-RACE SL:11

★ Editors' Choice

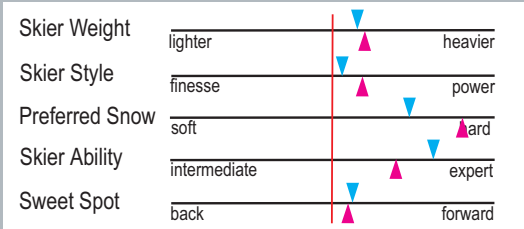
Stats	Men/Women
Lengths tested	160, 165/150, 155
Lengths available	150, 155, 160, 165
Best in	Groomed/Edge Grip
Suggested retail	\$1149

TARGET: ◆◆ Experts, recreational racers

Narrow skis tend to resist twisting better and the narrowest shovel in this category may be one reason why this ski was light, quick and grippy. Testers said it was a slalom ski for mortals and provided a clue why Bode Miller chose this brand for his next assault. The SL:11 rewarded good skiers with tenacious edge bite and inspiring liveliness on the glazed test slope. The quickness and raw power of these thoroughbreds demand skill, but if you're looking for a taste of the real thing, this could be your ride.



TEST RESULTS



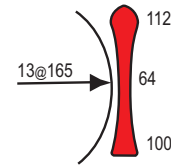
BLIZZARD SIGMA SL MAGNESIUM

★ Editors' Choice (men)

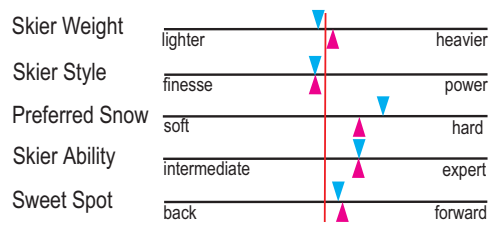
Stats	Men/Women
Lengths tested	165/155
Lengths available	155, 160, 165, 171
Best in	Groomed/Groomed
Suggested retail	\$999

TARGET: ■ Intermediate carvers

Lighter skiers seemed to enjoy the SL Magnesium most. This ski felt light to most testers and lacked the energy and performance of others in the category. Those with the patience to apply some finesse were rewarded with well-balanced performance albeit at slower speeds than most in this category. Male testers especially noted that moderate speed and softer snow brought out good performance where the light weight and docile manners delivered an enjoyable ride.



TEST RESULTS



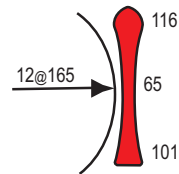
DYNAMIC VR 27 SL

★ Editors' Choice

Stats	Men/Women
Lengths tested	165, 173/155, 165
Lengths available	155, 165, 173
Best in	Groomed/Edge Grip
Suggested retail	\$1099 with binding

TARGET: ■◆ Advanced skiers, recreational racers

Some testers called the VR 27 the perfect Master's slalom ski. Although it lacks the uncompromising bite of Atomic, testers loved its versatility for a ski in this category. With a big sweet spot and energetic flex, it struck a good balance between performance and skiability for advanced skiers. Agile and yet easy to ski made this a multi-talented winner.



TEST RESULTS

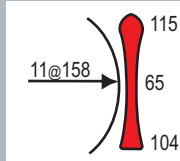
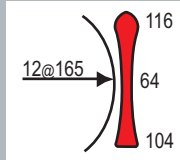


DYNASTAR OMECARVE 10 ARS (men) EXCLUSIVE CARVE (women)

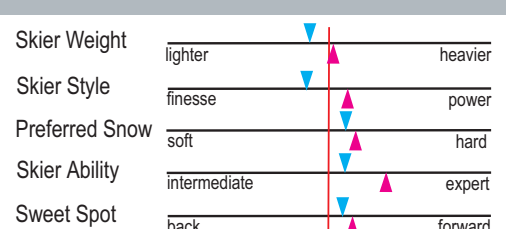
Stats	Men/Women
Lengths tested	165, 172/158
Lengths available	152, 158, 165, 172/152, 158, 165
Best in	Groomed/Groomed
Suggested retail	\$1199/\$799

TARGET: ■◆ Skiers with skills

About half the women liked the Exclusive Carve for the agility and balance, and approximately the same feedback came from men on the Ome carve 10 ARS. The liveliness of Dynastar skis gives them a certain character that adds fun but makes some skiers nervous at speed. In fact, almost all tester negative comments were related to how loose the skis felt at speed. At the same time, the tuned-in skiers found their Dynastars "like a Cadillac, fast and stable." Feedback was not conclusive which reinforces the basic rule: wait until you try them yourself.



TEST RESULTS



HIGH-PERFORMANCE ON-PISTE