

ENJOY THE RIDE

RACE LIKE THE WIND

If you're a cycling fanatic who loves braving Atlanta traffic with a bunch of buddies in tight clothes, Le Roi is the bike for you. Made by Wilier Triestina in Northern Italy, the super-light and super-stiff carbon fiber frame is the same one that the Italian racing team Lampré rides in the Tour de France. If the \$10,000 price tag at Atlanta Cycling is daunting, visit RealityBikes.com in Cumming, and purchase a ready-to-ride Colnago C40 Dura Ace (\$4,799) or Colnago Dream Plus (\$2,699). The expert staff can also custom-build a Colnago bike for you from imported parts. *Atlanta Cycling, 1860 Piedmont Ave., 404.873.2451, and 4335 Cobb Parkway, 770.952.7731, www.atlantacycling.com. RealityBikes.com, 20 Tri County Plaza, Cumming, 770.886.1175, www.realitybikes.com.*

GET CLOSER

Springtime dates in Italy aren't complete without a sunrise scooter ride for two to the neighborhood bakery, to taste the day's first steaming hot pastries. In Atlanta, you may have to settle for Krispy Kreme, but you can still get there in style with the newest Vespa GTS250. It comes in metallic black, Excalibur gray and dragon red (\$5,799). If the look is too mod squad, try the sleek Piaggio X9 Evolution (\$6,299) in imperial blue or steel gray, also available at the certified Vespa dealers listed here. *Vespa Atlanta, 3175 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, 678.417.6447, www.vespaatlanta.com. Vespa Marietta, 1750 Cobb Parkway South, Marietta, 770.984.9844, www.vespamarietta.com.*

LOOK COOL

Be a real road racer with the sporty new 2006 Ducati 99R Xerox, a limited edition of 300. "The Italians have a certain flair for styling," says Mason Orr, general manager of Atlanta Triumph Ducati. "They don't copy other motorcycles; they're known for their unique design and performance." At presstime, Orr's showroom had two in stock, plus a full line of other Ducatis starting at around \$7,000. It also stocks Italian-manufactured MV Augusta and Moto Guzzi, made in a factory on the shores of Lake Como. Of course, being extra-special has a price: in the case of the 99R Xerox, it's \$33,000. *1907-B Piedmont Road, 678.904.1414, www.atlantatriumphducati.com.*

BE A SPEED DEMON

Yes, Ferraris are hot. But, our Italian ride of choice this season is the Maserati Quattroporte Executive GT or Sport GT. Launched last



The new Vespa GTS250



Maserati's Quattroporte Executive GT

month in Detroit, the Quattroporte is considered by many experts the best car of the year. It comes with more than 4 million combinations and Poltrona Frau leather seats, and it can go from 0 to 60 in 5.2 seconds. There's a four-month wait list at Maserati of Atlanta, so get your name on the list now if you're willing to pay the \$102,000-plus price tag. If you can't wait to experience it, you can always fly to Parma, for a two-day Master GT Maserati 2006 driving class. They take place at the Autodromo Paletti di Varano de' Melegari, and are designed to let Maserati fans test the full line of cars, from the Coupé and Spyder to the Quattroporte. Ten instructors, headed up by Formula 1 pro Ivan Capelli, will put your skills to the test under all sorts of simulated hellish weather conditions, and keep track of it lap by lap via on-board telemetry. Hotel and dining are included in the 3,500-euro class fee (about \$4,173 at presstime). *For information on Maserati cars and classes, contact Maserati of Atlanta, 11875 Alpharetta Highway, Roswell, 678.802.5010 or www.maseratioatlanta.com.*

JUST TAKE OFF!

There's no better way to end your journey through the philosophies of *la dolce vita* than by taking a trip to Venice. Luckily for you, Delta Airlines is introducing a new direct Atlanta-Venice flight starting June 6. (This is its third direct flight in addition to its direct Atlanta to Milan and Rome flights.) Book a ticket in the Business Elite class, Delta's top class on international flights, and recline the seat to 160 degrees. Dine on the five-course menu and taste the award-winning in-flight wines. And by the way, *buon viaggio!* Delta Airlines, 800.221.1212, www.delta.com.

Travis Neighbor Ward is the editor-in-chief of The Atlantan and co-author of Living, Studying, and Working in Italy: Everything You Need to Know to Live La Dolce Vita (Henry Holt).