

**TRIED & TESTED**

MCN STAFF RATE THEIR RIDING KIT

★★★★★

Classic Arai shape and it's so well made



Aerodynamic spoiler for high-speed stability



1500 MILES

**Arai Quantic helmet £599.99**

## 'Reassuringly comfortable'

Tested by **Ali Silcox** for three months/1500 miles



It's got to be at least 15 years since I last wore an Arai and when I first opened the box of my new Quantic it was like meeting up with an old friend. From the moment I slipped the lid on, there was that reassuringly comfortable feel I'd hoped for. Conforming to the latest ECE22.06 standard and at close to £600, this full-face lid isn't cheap, but it does have all the lovely touches you'd expect from a helmet in this price bracket.

Vents are plentiful, easy to operate and work. There's a spoiler on the rear, which doubles as an exhaust vent. The fully removable and washable lining is plush and exceedingly welcoming. There are no rough edges and even on the hottest of days riding (35° heat during mid-summer) it never once felt itchy, even when I was sweating buckets.

I do have a couple of criticisms and the main one is the lack of drop-down sun visor. This is

something I've grown to love and use regularly on all my other lids. Having to fiddle around and switch visors, for sunny rides or as night draws in, can be time-consuming and there's the need to stow a spare visor safely. It's a pain and feels a little unnecessary (Arai believe drop-down visors compromise safety).

Having said that, visor changing isn't too tricky. While I initially felt nervous of the way the side pods pop off, once I'd made the switch a couple of times it was easy. I've learned, like with many things in life, I need to be firm but not heavy handed!

Lifting the visor is fiddly and I initially found the catch, which ensures the visor stays closed, difficult to operate. With a glove on, there's a real knack to getting it open; the catch needs undoing and then the visor must be slightly lifted outwards. It's not the easiest of moves to perfect and, if I'm honest, I stood in the kitchen and repeated the action numerous times before attempting it on the move. That said, when caught out in the rain, the visor has

never let in water, as this method of closure does ensure a tight seal. The visor comes with a Pinlock, anti-mist insert, so fogging has never been an issue either.

The understated graphics are stylish and the muted colours sit well with my other riding gear, there are other more colourful options and plain versions available too. Prices do vary and if you shop around, you can get some cracking deals at the moment.

**Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★**  
[www.whyarai.co.uk](http://www.whyarai.co.uk)

### PROS & CONS

- +** Quality, fit, styling, love it. Meets the new ECE22.06 rating
- Fiddly visor opening. It is pricey but there are deals around



Visor catch takes a bit of practice



The vents make a positive difference