



BEST OF BOTH CONTINENTS

Our friends at IMTBIKE in Spain have issued an invitation for you to start your new year in Morocco – and not only that, but possibly southern Spain as well. This is a terrific opportunity to ride some truly great bike roads with people who are almost locals – did you know that Spain actually has two small enclaves on the North African coast, surrounded by Morocco?

IMTBIKE offers three Morocco tours early next year: Magical Morocco, Mountains, Oases and Casbahs, from the 15th to the 29th of February; Morocco Adventure, The Essence of Morocco from the 7th to the 16th of March; and Morocco & Southern Spain, The Ancient Moorish Kingdom, from the 21st of March to the 6th of April.

Morocco was one of my favourite countries on Mrs Bear's and my tour of Europe and North Africa (except perhaps for Mrs Bear's visit to the dentist in Essaouira) and I'd recommend it to anyone. The "green oases, endless deserts and... Atlas Mountains" that IMTBIKE promises are wonderful, and so are the "dreamy roads through breathtaking landscapes". Highly recommended.

I can also personally vouch for the exceptional hotel selection and the multilingual guides; I've done a northern Spain tour with IMTBIKE where they came up tops. And if you

find that the tours I've mentioned above are sold out, which is actually more than likely, they have the same or similar ones later in the year. See imtbike.com for details.

ADVENTURE HO!

As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, I recently attended EICMA, the annual Milan motorcycle show. It's the biggest in the world, and an excellent guide to the thinking and planning of the motorcycle industry. This year, adventure bikes and scramblers are on everybody's mind. You can read more about this in my coverage of the show, but here are a couple of bikes that didn't make it into my story, and one that did.

Moto Morini, I'm pleased to say, continues the tradition of Italian press releases in tangled English.

"X-CAPE is the Moto Morini styled

I hate to say this, but I prefer motorcycles to camels, even in the desert...

Adventure: versatility, fun and comfort distilled in a futuristic, eye-catching look," they tell us. "The 19" front wheel and a large 50 mm diameter front adjustable fork guarantee a surprising road holding... There is no lack of fundamental accessories such as the trio of bags, the protective bars or the heated knobs, indispensable on a true adventure."

That might seem a bit garbled, but the bike it announces is a terrific piece of work. I can't wait to try out the heated

Here's one they prepared earlier: a Moto Morini X-Cape, appropriately dirtied for the show.

