



THE ASPES MXER IS HERE

... And TWO WHEELS has the first bike in the country!

IT'S NOT every day we get first shot at a super-trick new import, and when we're consulted before the bike arrives in the country and then allowed to test and evaluate the first example, it's something to crow about!

By the time you read this there will be more examples of the Aspes 125 CRC in the country and who knows, they might have even notched up a few wins in local events.

As this is being written the bike has just been unloaded at a staffer's home and while it has been given a couple of squirts on an adjoining vacant block, we haven't ridden it in earnest. But it shows promise — in heaps.

The bike is directly descended from the machine Corrado Maddi rode to take out the 1976 125 Italian Motocross Championships. The engine and frame are manufactured by Aspes; all other components are supplied by outside manufacturers and are quality items: Motoplat electronic ignition, a 34mm Dellorto carb, long travel Ceriani front forks, Marzocchi gas rear units, Grimeca front and rear single loading shoe drums, Akront alloy rims, Pirelli tyres,

Tomasselli bars, Magura grips and throttle, Preston Petty guards and a Regina racing chain. Quite a list, and one of the reasons the bike will sell for about \$1800.

No power and torque figures are available for the bike but bore and stroke is square at 54 x 54mm for an actual capacity of 123cm³, the gearbox is a five-speeder, primary drive is by gears from a wet multi-plate clutch and weight is a trim 89kg. Fuel tank capacity is listed as seven litres.

It doesn't come across in the photos,

but the bike is tall — probably about 50mm taller at the saddle than Editor Brown's YZ125, which isn't exactly a low bike. Power delivery also seems a lot smoother, but just as strong as the YZ and while the steering lock is more limited than the YZ's, stability and the light weight should mean this is of little consequence.

We'll have it out in the dirt soon and by the time our test appears the bikes should be here in numbers and making an impression on the MX scene. Stay tuned for the test.

BACKGROUND

The Aspes 125CRC is one of a full range of enduro and MX machines made by Motor-Aspes, Gallarate (Varese) in Italy. The bikes have a strong reputation in Europe, as the company has been manufacturing bike engines from 50 to 125cm³ for the last 12 years.

In the 1973-'74 season a 180cm³ Aspes won a major 250cm³ motocross meeting at Malpensa in Italy and the company decided to develop serious MXers and enduro bikes. This decision bore fruit in 1976 when an Aspes powered Juma 125 won the French Motocross Championship and a factory 125 CRC won the Italian championship.

This success has led the company to feel out overseas markets and the Australian distributors, Tradasia Pty Ltd, is one of the first to benefit from the factory's expansion.

