
Stockli Snake (New for 2004/2005)

(25 Apr 04) - Contributed by Duncan Mills - Last Updated (02 Oct 04)

I have been waiting a very long time to get the opportunity to ride Stockli, and I am happy to say I am far from disappointed in the whole range. First up is the Stockli Snake...

Model: Snake

Size(cm) / Radius(m): 160/15.9 170/18.3 180/20.8*

Sidecut: 114/80/108

Length Tested: 170cm

Manufacturer's Description:

"Born to fly"

Ski-Review's Verdict:

Wow – buy this ski - if you can find it! A whole quiver on offer on the rack and I wanted to go on these first. Why? So many reasons...

You cannot see from the image but the top sheet actually has a real snakeskin finish – according the rep making it one the most expensive design processes. Not only that but turn these skis and the reflection changes from a blue to green. Shallow? Yes, but lets go.

Both the tips and tails have a very similar shape and construction to the Beasts offered from Nordica, however these are much more beefy, capped with metal and make the ski look bullet-proof and ready for action.

When I got back I could not believe these are billed as a park ski. Not to say they do not perform in the park but in the powder and crud they are simply amazing.

Snow conditions were not great – about a foot of new powder which had been chopped up a fair bit. I started the run chasing my ski partner Ollie, and every time we stopped we could do nothing but laugh – laugh at the unbelievable amount of fun we were having. Ollie was skiing the ZAG Freeride 84 long and loving the stability through the turns. I however, found myself bouncing around all over the place as the Snake's jumped this way and that, proving the stiffness and liveliness of the ski. This was why I am so surprised they are billed as dual ski for both park and powder.

At the bottom I wanted to go again – or did I? First Stockli skis and I had the run of my life – and there was the rest of the rack waiting for me.... Maybe one more run...

If you are tall but less experienced, you may have trouble reacting to lively terrain with these skis and unfortunately there is no longer length available. I was sure there was a 180 available at the time of testing, however the press kit says different – will look into that.

* Edit: I was correct on the above - check the full article out in Ski News.

In our first Stockli review I feel obliged to mention the history of the company, I will do but only briefly as it deserves a whole page of its own and will get it.

A Swiss company, 66 years making skis, every ski hand made and only 40,000 pairs made a year. More of an institution to the ski industry than just a manufacturer.

Every Stockli ski carries a 2 year warranty – and according to the rep – not a single pair has been returned. A 2 year warranty not only shows confidence in the product but offers piece of mind to the consumer – and not having a pair returned, ever, speaks for itself!

Conclusion?

Tall and less than experienced? Might want to look elsewhere.
Other than that - Worth considering if you like to big in the park and fast on the piste.