

Swinging 60s return with RE's Continental GT

Nikil S Jonathan | TNN

Bambolim (Goa): Royal Enfield, makers of the iconic Bullet and Classic line of bikes, launched their latest offering — a café racer -Continental GT on Tuesday.

The Continental GT, powered by a 535cc air-cooled fuel-injected single cylinder engine putting out a 29.1bhp and 44Nm of torque, will be manufactured from the company's newest plant in Oragadam near Chennai, which has been online since April.

The Continental GT, which debuted at the 2012 Auto Expo and on sale currently in the UK, features a twin-double downtube cradle chassis crafted by England's Harris Performance and is available in red and yellow. The design of the bike takes styling cues from the 60s café racers, specifically the 1965 Continental GT 250, that took England by storm after World War II.

“With the Continental GT, we wanted to introduce riders to the culture of café racing. We also didn't want the superficial feel of other bikes out in the market today. We encourage our riders to mod



Café racer Continental GT

the bike, remove stuff, add some all to make it go faster,” said Sidartha Lal MD & CEO of Eicher Motors, whose division is Royal Enfield.

The Continental GT is priced at 2.05 lakh (on-road Delhi) and 2.14 (Mumbai) The Eicher group-owned bike maker has already started exporting the bike to the UK. The bike maker has managed to nail the retro-racer look perfectly with a low and long fuel tank with knee recesses, solo seat complete with a cowl, chrome engine, clip-on bars and an upswept exhaust. The Continental GT also sports front and rear disc brakes, and gas-charged shocks at the rear.