

MOTO

ART ON TWO WHEELS

*Look past the gorgeous design and you'll find Norton's latest ride
is an engineering masterpiece*

Text by KEITH GORDON



Take a glance at the new Norton V4 RR motorcycle and you might think it's a museum piece instead of a high-performance machine. But don't be fooled by the stylish design. Norton developed this mobile work of art at the most difficult motorcycle course on earth, the Isle of Man circuit, perfecting the 1200cc V-4 engine capable of producing more than 200 brake horsepower.

The V4 RR is a feat of engineering. Its aluminum twin-tube shotgun chassis takes 26 hours to hand-polish, and the bodywork is formed from lightweight carbon fiber. Even the gas tank is made from carbon fiber, combined with Kevlar

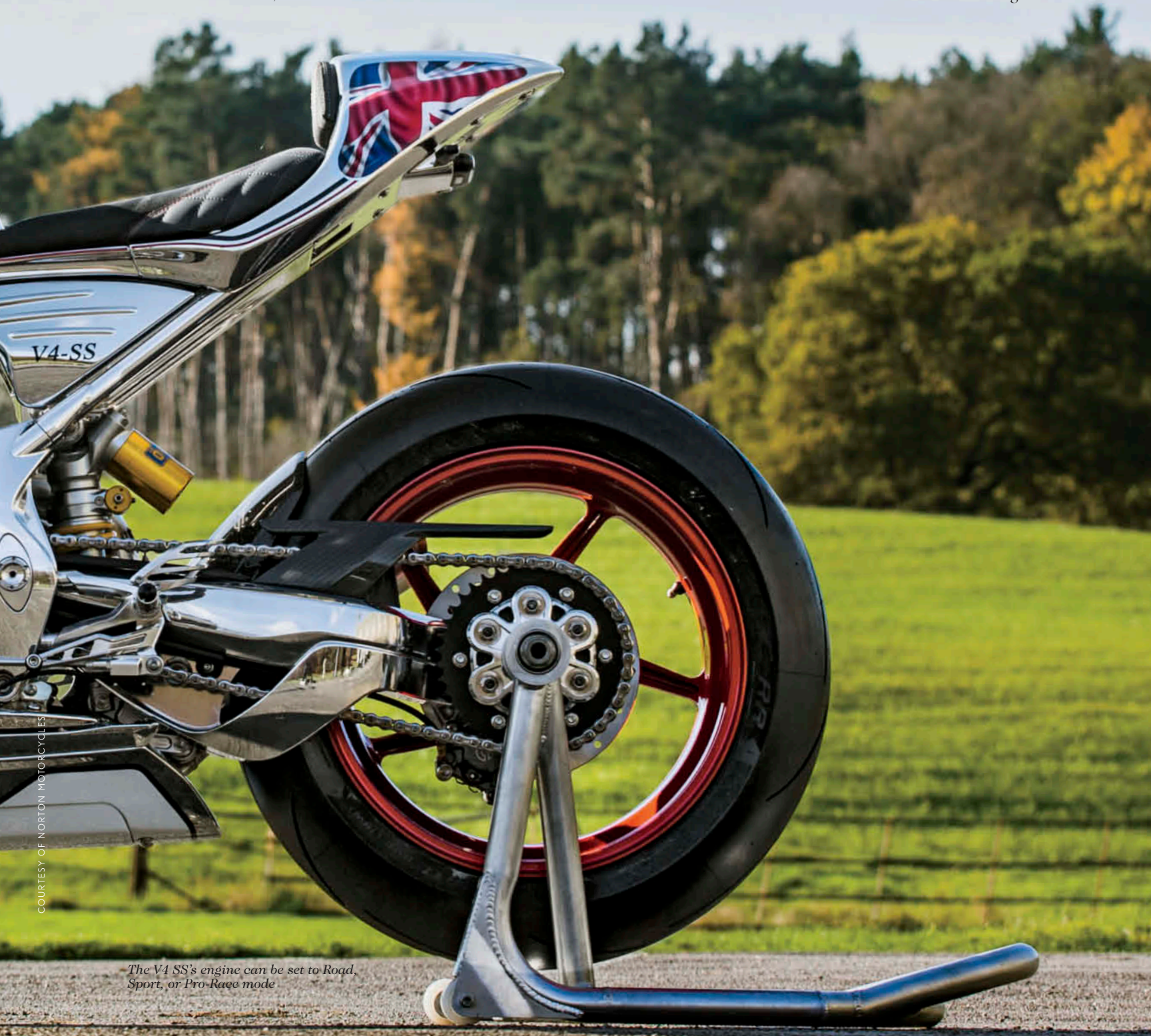
reinforcement, which may help prevent a potential puncture. Both wheels are crafted of forged aluminum, and 330-mm Brembo disc brakes are entrusted to bring the speed demon to a safe halt.

If the V4 RR appears to be a true TT racer, that's largely due to its heritage. Norton tested the concepts that became the V4 RR on its SG5 TT race bike, a machine that finished seventh at the 2016 Superbike TT competition at the Isle of Man.

Norton gives owners the option of flipping between engine modes—settings include Road, Sport, and Pro-Race—but keeps riders out of trouble with both advanced traction and

anti-wheelie control. Meanwhile, launch control maximizes acceleration and cruise control gives riders a little comfort on long rides.

With a starting price of around \$38,000, the V4 RR is an extreme motorcycle: a force on race circuits that's also suitable for your commute. Norton is also offering a V4 SS limited edition of 200 units at a cost of up to \$60,000, for which you'll get billet aluminum parts instead of forged or cast ones, as well as a titanium race system. You can switch the aluminum wheels for carbon fiber and choose to forgo the chrome paint job for a raw carbon fiber that looks incredible in natural light.



The V4 SS's engine can be set to Road, Sport, or Pro-Race mode