

# Robb Report

The manual of modern luxury

UK Edition Issue 04

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Motorcycle marvel

## Harley's new engine revolution

Harley-Davidson has stepped up its fight against reinvigorated US rivals with an entirely new engine for its 2017 touring motorcycles – the ninth iteration of its big V-twin motor since 1909.

While tourers such as the Road King and Street Glide preserve the traditional look that usually sells to Harley's loyal fans, the new Milwaukee-Eight engine brings the refinement that a new generation of potential buyers expects.

The twin retains a 45-degree angle between cylinders that are in line with each other, but there are now four valves per cylinder. That results in more power and torque, as well as lower emissions, from the 1,753cc and 1,868cc engines.

On the road, this yields better acceleration, which really comes into its own when overtaking – and the bikes, aided by much-improved suspension, can certainly be hustled along.

Rider comfort is also addressed with a balancer shaft that smooths out the worst of engine vibration. Water-cooling is a feature on the bikes where a radiator can be hidden in the fairing panels, such as the Road Glide Ultra, and all the bikes have improved oil cooling. Thus the engines are less inclined to cook their riders in the summer.

The Milwaukee-Eight is an important step for Harley, which is having to fight harder to defend its lucrative turf. The reborn Indian Motorcycles marque, bought in 2011 by Polaris to join its Victory brand, has even launched a race engine to combat Harley's near-dominance in US flat-track racing. So this year will see the battle joined both on and off the track. **Rohit Jaggi**

Left: The Harley-Davidson 2017 Street Glide bike featuring the company's new Milwaukee-Eight engine

## A premium cup of Java

Fancy a post-prandial cup of coffee crafted with the complexity of a grand cru classé, and a price tag to match? A world away from hipster Hoxton geekery, Amir Gehl is turning coffee capsules luxe with Difference Coffee ([differencecoffee.com](http://differencecoffee.com)), winning over the world's most revered restaurants, hotels and private yacht owners.

He sources only the highest-grade beans from award-winning estates of ultra-rare coffee terroirs, which are the equivalent

of first growths: Hawaii Kona, Jamaica Blue Mountain and Wild Kopi Luwak. Roasting is to order by world barista judge Jonny England, making it the freshest and best balanced in capsulation. Sipped from a gold cup at Harry's Bar in Mayfair, it makes for a suitably haute caffeine experience. **SP**



ILLUSTRATION BILL BRAGG, HARLEY-DAVIDSON