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# MILAN SHOW MANIA

BEST OF ITALY 2007

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Ducati steals the show—  
with a little help from its friends

NCR DUCATI NEW BLUE

The 64th International Motorcycle Exhibition in Milan promised to be filled with new Italian motorcycles, and it did not disappoint. The all-new, 160-horsepower Ducati 1098 Superbike (*Motorcyclist*, January) was one of the highlights of the show,

looking especially lovely in its 5-model's *tricolore* paint scheme. But lurking in the NCR booth was a Ducati-powered special that should prove no less appealing to Americans. Nicknamed New Blue, it's a replica of Old Blue, the historic 750SS campaigned by *Cycle*

magazine's Cook Neilson and Phil Schilling in the 1970s.

Commissioned by Ducati to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Neilson's 1977 Daytona Superbike win, New Blue began life as a Sport 1000S. NCR stripped the bike to race trim, boosted output by

30 bhp and trimmed weight by an astounding 84 pounds. The company will build a limited number of replicas for the American market. They won't be cheap.

Aprilia has been quiet of late, but presented two new models and a new engine in Milan.