

BUYING RIGHT GRAVEL GRINDERS

Originating mostly in the Midwest, gravel grinders—long races held on predominantly unimproved dirt, chip-seal, and gravel back roads—have exploded in popularity over the past few years. People race on whatever they've got (mountain bikes, cyclocross rigs, traditional road bikes), and the vibe is part century, part adventure race. Challenging road conditions, nasty weather, and limited support checkpoints are all part of the allure. BY AARON GULLEY

CamelBak Podium Chill bottle \$12

Load up the Chill with ice and you'll be treated to a refreshingly cold drink hours into your ride. The on-off bite valve ensures the jostling roads won't eject half your hydration before you drink it. camelbak.com

