

Light is Right: this is the idea behind the SR1 Roadster

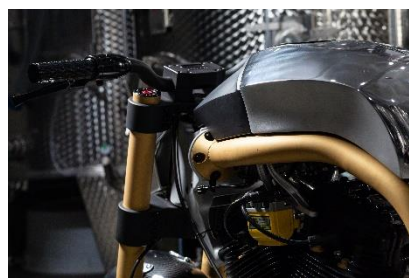
This bike called SR1 is a concrete example of how a man turned the worst news of his life into something remarkable.



French duo father and son, Michel and Jimmy Messina, share similar careers as well as a passion for vintage motorcycles and hot rods. In 2019, Jimmy, a mechanical engineer and an experienced race mechanic, received the news that changed his world. It was the kind of news that, for many, would shatter dreams and consume them with fear. But Jimmy chose to push his limits to create a state-of-the-art motorcycle with the support of his father.

Indeed, Jimmy Messina was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2019. Shortly thereafter, he must leave his day job in order to undergo chemotherapy. However, he was not going to let unfortunate circumstances prevent him from realizing his dream of building his dream bike. This project has therefore become part of its fight against cancer. The main objective is the development of a prototype in order to manufacture an exclusive tailored motorcycle in small series.

The father-son duo turned to Buell and Voxan for inspiration, but Jimmy Messina had his own frame design in mind for the first build of RD Kustom, the SR1. After finding an American V-twin for the project, he 3D modelled the entire bike and produced prototype parts with a 3D printer before CNC manufacturing...

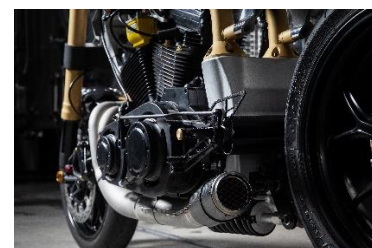
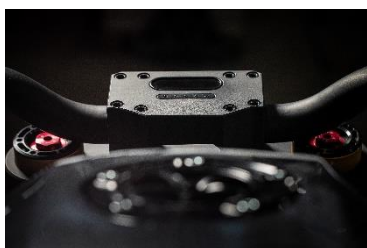


The frame is made of a chromoly double tubular spine coupled to Ergal front and rear "blocks". The lightweight frame increases both weight savings and stiffness. The 1200 cc V-twin becomes an integrated part of the frame, participating to its rigidity. A 51mm Marzocchi fork and a Brembo braking system strengthen the front, while French EMC suspension specialists provide the rear shock of their own design.

Elements such as the 17-inch Marchesini wheels, CNC machined triple trees and the alloy swingarm allow to lose extra pounds, but the SR1 doesn't just cut on weight, it also gains muscle. Originally, the engine developed 101 BHP. Jimmy Messina boosts it with two 39 mm Keihin FCR carburetors, high-flow filters and a 2 in 1 homemade exhaust with a SC-Project silencer for a little more punch.



With such a radical approach of an American black horse, RD Kustom & Design brings out even more the SR1 aggressive look with an angular aesthetic and cable free front end. From the diamond-shaped group of headlights to the two-tone air box-fuel tank combo and the pointed rear end, the shape of the roadster not only follows its function, but also arouses emotions. This harmony of style and substance immediately captures the public's attention.



text credit Paul-Emile Viel, Paddock GP