



INTRODUCING

The **Cruze** is CrazyFly's new lightwind addition to their range. This niche definitely seems to be on the rise with larger sized kites popping up at every spot on those easy summer days. With the growing, competitive market, large kites are getting lighter in weight, more powerful, easier to re-launch and faster turning every year! **TESTED WK**

BASICS

Build // Construction // Graphics

The **Cruze** has a flat delta shape and square wing tips to give it more power and a more direct feel through the bar. It's made up of 5 struts giving it a fairly rigid structure compared with some of its competitors. CrazyFly have stripped it down to basics to save weight and it boasts the ever popular Turbo inflate/deflate valve system which is simple, effective and has little to go wrong. Out of the bag, its bold summer colours and simple, modern graphics look great, and it packs up small enough at the end of the day without too much fuss!

Bar // Depower

The 'Sick' bar has come a long way over the years. Its simple push away safety system releases all the pressure onto

a mini fifth line that attaches further up on to one of the inside lines giving excellent peace of mind. The depower strap is above the bar keeping everything neat and tidy. It's well within reach and works perfectly, although it does still use Velcro to keep the excess depower strap from flapping. Great until it's clogged with sand and seaweed after the first few outings. The biggest downfall of the bar is a recurring issue for CrazyFly. The bar ends are soft which is great for safety and comfort, but does mean your lines have a habit of falling off when trying to wrap them up neatly. Nit picking but does grind people's gears.



PERFORMANCE

Flying // Turning // Unhooking

So how does it fly? Well we had the perfect scenario. Early spring light breeze and fun little waves; most of the kites were stuck on the beach struggling to stay upwind. We pumped up the **Cruze** and instantly had a smug grin. The **Cruze** had plenty of power and flew upwind effortlessly. Its smooth continuous pull made riding a pleasure. The turning speed was fast for its size, which was a relief although, due to its incredibly direct feel, it does tire the arms out. The bar also felt a little twitchy like it had a mind of its own. It didn't alter the steering but was a bit peculiar to get used to.

Jumping // Hangtime

At first we thought it had a lot of float without much pop, but rethinking how to take off we soon realised the sky's the limit. Once you get used to the large kite delay you can really start enjoying the extra air time you'll get.

The Triangle (Upwind, Downwind & Speed)

The **Cruze** flies upwind, is efficient and flies forward in the window, giving a smooth and comfy beating position. Across the wind it is a bit of a brute and powerful. It rides fast and consistent but does leave you gritting your teeth to hang on. Not necessarily a negative considering this is in a light wind environment. It does tend to struggle a bit downwind but manages as well as you would expect from a 17m kite.

VERDICT

If you're looking at growing your quiver to get out every second of the summer then the **Cruze** seems to tick all the boxes. Fast turning, continuous power and direct steering. It's certainly an agile giant in the skies. It looks fresh and stands out on the water with bright bold colours. The bag it comes in is useful and doubles as a great rucky if you need one.

INFO PANEL

Main Market Light wind / Freeride
Sizes 15,17

Line configuration 4 line

Inflation Turbo single point

Safety Push release, single line flagout