

What's up with the CaffelateX?

Author: Gnome | Categories: Product Reviews | Comments: 10 responses

Tubeless. Love it AND hate it. I've reluctantly embraced the idea since it rolled out a decade ago (already), but it has never been pretty. Failure was common, and I'd bounce between tubeless and tubed setups as the inevitable tubeless-failure occurred. Years later, it seems the improvements to the technology have come around... for the most part.

Effetto Mariposa CaffelateX tubeless tire sealant is a new option for those looking for an alternative to the current offering. I've been running a sample for the past two months that the fine peeps at Cantitoeroad.com provided. But what is Effetto Mariposa anyway? I've never heard of it prior to this. Their website is here, and it seems Effetto Mariposa is actually a one-man-Italian-band devoted to improving cycling tools and componentry, which will suffice for me. Any Italian dude attempting to improve cycling components & products deserves a try in my book if only because of their geographical proximity to Ernesto's home.



Effetto Mariposa's CaffelateX differs from the fray in that it claims a foaming action that improves seal. Compared to the previous alternative, it does indeed bleed less and after a 12 hour race, a few long multiday rides, the usual daily rides including trail sabotaging and other tomfoolery, I have had no problems. That said, I'm taking it on faith that the sealant is doing its job – via foaming action or otherwise – and doing it better than the competition. Air pressure has remained surprisingly stable, with only two air-ups over the past two months, which is a good indicator of sealing no? Also, the install was an atypical easy experience in that, unlike previous tire/tubeless combos, the CaffelateX sealed up easy-cheesy using a floor pump. That's a big deal for some... like me, who don't have an air compressor nor want that type of bullshit dependency.

Above and beyond the easy install scenario, the CaffelateX tubeless kit comes with a few savvy installation tools that will aid installation in both tubed, and tubeless setups. Steve, from Cantitoeroad.com has the full details in the following video:

Open ended conclusion: My initial opinion of the Effetto Mariposa CaffelateX from installation, to maintenance, to use, is that it is indeed better than the alternative(s). In conjunction with being better, the cost (through Cantitoeroad.com), once broken down to the ounce, is the same when compared to Stan's NoTubes. I highly recommend it.

The challenge from here will be the long term test. To date, I've never had a tubeless setup not completely fail before a tire is toast and that will be the goal here; for it to last until the knobs are shot. I expect that review to happen sometime this Fall.

Curious about trying it yourself? Find your Effetto Mariposa CaffelateX Kit over at cantitoeroad.com.

Need to read more opinions?

- 29inches.com has a multi-part review
- velonews.com has a writeup that doesn't say anything.
- geek's love it at the mtbr forums