

# 'THE TUONO IS FASTER THAN THE RSV4...'

**Romano Albesiano, vice president of product development for Piaggio, explains why the Tuono outpaces the RSV4 on most roads and what's next for the V4 motor**

Photography Chippy Wood

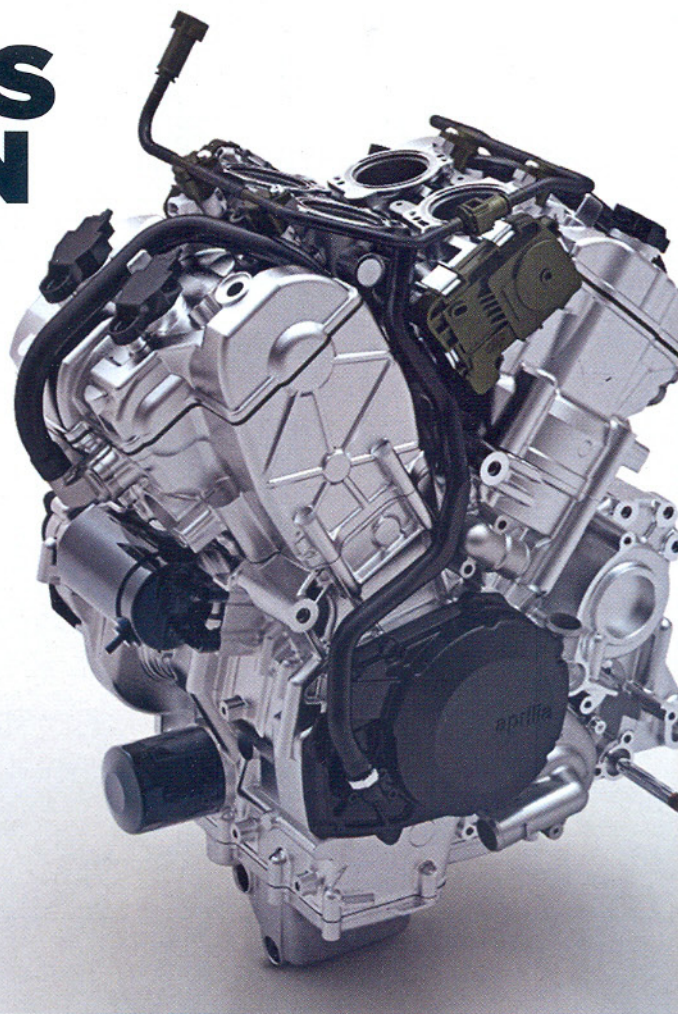
The Tuono was included as part of the original business plan of the RSV4 project. This is not a completely new bike but it's not just the RSV4 without a fairing and with a higher handlebar. Making a sportsbike is difficult, but making a naked bike with almost the same performance is even more difficult. Getting the stability and the general handling is more difficult, you have less weight on the front, so to make this bike work in the proper way is not easy. It takes a long time. We expected to just adjust some things but in the end we had to make new parts.

The Tuono was developed mainly on track, at Mugello and also Rijeka in Croatia. Rijeka is an old track that was in the GP

▣ **The RSV4 is one of the fastest bikes on the race track and it's very fast on the road, but the Tuono is faster on 90% of tight roads**

championship many years ago and was never updated. It's fast, a very nice track, but very bumpy. It's a very good representation of the road, it's very critical for stability, we say normally if a bike performs well in Rijeka it performs well everywhere. And we confirm on the road, but most development was on track.

I don't think it's too extreme for the road. As you British say, 'The throttle goes both ways.' It's really a bike you can use for every day. It's a very soft engine at part throttle and it's a very silent bike compared to the first RSV4, so you can use the bike for travelling slowly without causing any kind of stress. But if you want to go really fast you can really do it.



The Tuono uses a slightly detuned version of the RSV4 engine

The Tuono is not extreme, it's comfortable, but you can keep the control when you go very fast. The RSV4 is one of the fastest bikes on the racetrack and for sure it's very fast on the road, but if you go on tight roads, on almost 90% of roads the Tuono is faster.

Will the V4 appear in other bikes? Nothing is planned so far. When we started the V4 story, we started from scratch. Now we have the RSV4, now we are ready to launch the Tuono. Maybe the family will grow in the future, but it's not immediate.

**Romano Albesiano**



Piaggio vice president Romano Albesiano sees the new Tuono as a bike you can use every day