

“THE ZULU SERIES HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF A QUIET WARRIOR, BUT SIMPLY PUT, THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL 11M KITES WE’VE FLOWN, IT’S OUT IN FRONT”



INTRODUCING THE FUSE

The ZULU 3 packs in great stability and multi functionality with a C-shape tendency. With the ZULU 3 you are always free, free to choose your style of riding between: Freestyle-New School / Freeride / Wave / Course racing / Speed / Beginner.

Basics

Build and construction 5 strut canopy has a mighty Dacron frame running along the leech and wingtips. One pump tubes are shrouded in neoprene and are very secure. Big stitched rescue and carry handles, chunky stitching bonds the struts to the canopy which is cut from Teijin cloth. Looks built to take a tumble in the surf.

Set up and tuning Long bridle helps stability, extensions on rear lines are thicker to prevent wear and easier to connect. Uses an aluminium low-friction ring instead of a pulley. Options for freestyle and freeride on the bridle, plus light or lighter bar tuning on rear lines. Single point inflation, two in/out valves are not non-return. **Bar and safety system** You won't have seen a bar like this. Packs in: freeride or

freestyle chicken loop, ingenious leash system (attach leash directly to CL), double power line, chunky bar floaters, two OS handles, three way trimmer, Swiss engineered double safety system, oh and chicken loop stainless swivel. Bar throw is average. Sounds cluttered, looks tidy. **Letting go and relaunch** Several options for killing power. First, hit the push away safety. That puts the Zulu on front lines, killing 90% of pull and the chicken loop stays with you. Once safety is hit, a secondary safety reveals itself which cuts all connection between kite and rider. Also two OS handles for



single line flag out. Relaunch is more than adequate.



Vital Stats

Sizes: 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16
Bar length/line
Length: 52cm
Struts: 5
Aspect Ratio: n/a
Bridle configuration: Supported leading edge.
Safety release push: PUSH
Dumps on front lines or rear line flag out
Safety packdown – TICK ✓

Performance

Turning speed, positioning and feel

We've flown all three 11m Zulus now, and they're all quick for their size. The kite's position in the window can be tuned via front bridle settings. The canopy is smooth in flight, wickedly stable and the bar is light and direct. We could work this one all over the place without setting off RSI. **The Triangle** It depends how you tune it (freestyle, freeride) as to how the Zulu copes with upwind and downwind travel. Choosing the freestyle option lets it sit deeper which is better for down the line waveriding, or powered tow for unhooking. The freeride mode shows impressive upwind ability. **Lift, hang time and landing** This 11m gives great travel when jumping. The turning rate and momentum is well pitched for freeriders looking to kick it with big air moves in the magic 20knots range, bar is plenty light enough for easy downloop redirections and controlled touchdowns. A functional balance of height and hangtime. **Unhooking** The Zulu has a robust canopy that handles good back line tension. Pop and travel with this 11m is good. The bar set up itself is perfect for unhooking – the leash is kept clear of the chicken loop, the CL locates into the underside of the bar and you can 'tune' the kite for unhooking in an instant. **Trimming** So you've got three things to pull on the trimmer – one for 50% depower, one for 100% and one to reset. Sounds fiddly, sounds limiting, but in practise it's a smooth and elegant solution to managing what is a very large wind range. Steering remains direct when depowered.

Icing

The Looks Previous Zulus looked distinct, not always for the right reasons. This time, GIN have got the graphics right; looks fresh and a bit wild. **The Package** All wrapped up in a rucksack that wouldn't look out of place halfway up Mont Blanc, includes bag for inflated struts. Bar get a bag too. Spare cable ties and repairs. **The Extras** We feel like GIN have gone beyond the call of duty with their GTS safety system – it's unique and is a front runner in quick release arena.

kitesurf VERDICT

The Zulu series has been something of a quiet warrior, but simply put, this is one of the most useful 11m kites we've flown, it's out in front. The low end is that good that if you're not going upwind on your surfboard, you may as well paddle. It's got poke on tap for amping freeride sessions and as for the the Swiss machined QR and GIN bar, they're the cat's pyjamas.