

# Review: 70005 Laval's Royal Fighter

## *The legend begins*

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Pictures by LEGO® Iberia S.A.



When, a couple of months ago, the first leaked images of the new LEGO themes for 2013 started to appear, Legends of Chima was probably the one that generated most speculation. After seeing the first official images and reading the first official reports I thought "this theme is not for me". Initially this theme may have been conceived to substitute Ninjago, but the success this latter theme has had in some of the important markets for LEGO® have ensured it will last another season on the shelves of the toy stores.

It is clear that LEGO has put a lot of effort into Chima. A cartoon series that provides the historical background to the theme, two subthemes, some extremely detailed minifigs, new pieces, new colours, ... a declaration of intent of what the stakes are for LEGO on this theme.

The story behind Chima is, unfortunately, again one of hate, envy and fighting. Not that it is bad, it is after all the reality we live in, but I believe Friends has taught us that a different product and storyline can also be successful.

The scene for these new adventures is Chima. This jungle like world is the home to eight species of animals (for now we only know of five, which gives us a glimpse of the planned continuity in years to come) which face each other for control of the Chi. This Chi doesn't allow them to travel between galaxies, like the "spice" in Dune, but it does contain all the force of nature. So far the tribe of the lions controlled this resource and distributed it among the rest of the tribes, but you know, possession gives birth to envy. The final scenario is that of two factions fighting for control of the Chi, and this is where the Chima theme begins.





Within Chima you can find two types of product or subthemes. One is made up of normal sets, with their vehicles and minifigs, and the other by the so called Speedorz. These vehicles are built around a large and heavy wheel - the equivalent of the spinning tops in NinjaGO - and give the theme the possibility of carrying out competitions between kids with these vehicles. With the help of a launcher they will be able to compete with the vehicles, overcoming different obstacles to get the golden Chi.

In this issue we will have a look at:

**Set 70005 Laval's Royal Fighter**  
**Number of parts: 417**  
**Minifigs: 3**

This vehicle belongs to the tribe of the lions, which easy to imagine once you have seen it. The set comes with numbered bags and two instruction booklets (one would have sufficed) and thanks to the smaller boxes the size of the box is appropriate for its contents. First up, you build the minifigs and their weapons which, as I mentioned at the start of this article

is without a doubt one of the strong points of this theme. The minifigs are extremely detailed and visually very attractive - I believe they are a big hit for LEGO®. In this case we have two lions, Laval and Longtooth, and a crocodile, Crawley. Next you build the vehicle, a process that can be split into two parts. One part with mostly Technic pieces for the internal structure and the movement of the cannon at the top, and a second part which include the large lion head that dominates the vehicle. I must say that the lion head is a great example of LEGO design, and it is by far the best part of the set. It is a pity that the rest of the vehicle is so devoid of details, because if the whole set had the quality of the lion head it would be a brilliant set. But we all know that at some point you need to reduce the number of pieces to get to the target price of the set... a pity. The vehicle has two moving elements, the cannon which can be elevated and rotated by means of two simple mechanisms and a cover that can be opened to show a map.

In short, a very playable set that will be the delight of the followers of the lion tribe, and which due to its price can be a good start to evaluate your interest in the theme. If you are careful to look at it only from the front, it is marvellous and includes some parts in interesting colours for those AFOLs who are always on the lookout for new and amazing colour combinations.

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