

# The Dolomites

## Rock Climbs and Via Ferrata

Catinaccio  
Val di Fassa  
Marmolada  
Sella Group  
Val Gardena  
Fanis Group  
Falzarego Pass  
Tofana Group  
Cinque Torri  
Cortina Basin  
Misurina Area  
Tre Cime

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# Dolomites Update

This PDF document contains the main changes to the 2014 edition of the Dolomites Rockfax that were published in the second edition on November 1 2019. It is not a comprehensive document and there were many more minor changes in the second edition but these are the important ones. Some are changes in descents and approaches, some are re-written route descriptions based on feedback received. There have also been a few rockfalls and we have got hold of some slightly improved photos for some crags.

### App Version

The Rockfax App version has been updated with all the changes. You can subscribe to that for £4/month or £36/year and get access to the entire Rockfax guidebook collection direct to your smartphone - iOS or Android. Go to [rockfax.app](https://rockfax.app) to subscribe.



### How to Use This Document

The pages are numbered as in the book but all the unchanged information is removed. If you had a lot of time you could print out this document and cut out the changes and stick them into the older book. You could also save paper and just carry it with you as a PDF.

### Next Edition

The second edition is aimed at keeping us going for three years. During that time we will be working on a major updated version with plenty of new routes, photos and information.

### Feedback

We appreciate all feedback on the book. Please email it to [info@rockfax.com](mailto:info@rockfax.com)

The Catinaccio group lies to the east of the Val di Fassa and is a popular Mecca for climbers and tourists alike. It is home to the famous Vajolet Towers, three dolomitic spires that offer superbly exposed climbing at surprisingly amenable grades. Cima Catinaccio will satisfy anyone in search of a 'big wall' experience. There are also several via ferrata which although never technically challenging are excellent ways to explore the area. The name Catinaccio stems from the Ladin Ciadenac, meaning a basin surrounded by high mountains. However the group is perhaps more commonly known by its German name - Rosengarten ('Rose Garden').

Local legend has it that once upon a time Catinaccio was ruled by King Laurino, King of the Dwarves. At the heart of his kingdom was a beautiful rose garden. One day, the King of the Adige announced that his daughter Similde was to be wed, and so all the nobles of the area were invited to a ball. All the nobles, that is, except King Laurino. Slighted, King Laurino vowed to attend in secret, concealed under his invisibility cloak. When he saw Similde, he was so struck by her beauty that he fell in love instantly. He pulled her onto his horse and fled. The other nobles ordered their armies after Similde, soon arriving at King Laurino's beloved rose garden. Laurino donned a magic belt, giving him the strength of twelve men, but his opponents were too many. Realising he could not win, he threw on his magical invisibility cloak and hid amongst the roses. However, Laurino's enemies saw the roses move as he hid beneath him, and so the Dwarf King was captured. Furious at being taken prisoner, King Laurino cursed the rose garden which had betrayed him, vowing that no human would see them ever again, by day or by night. And so it was that the beautiful roses turned to stone. Yet Laurino forgot one thing - twilight, which is neither day nor night. So it is that every evening, the roses shine pink through the rock, giving the mountains their infamous hue.

## Approach

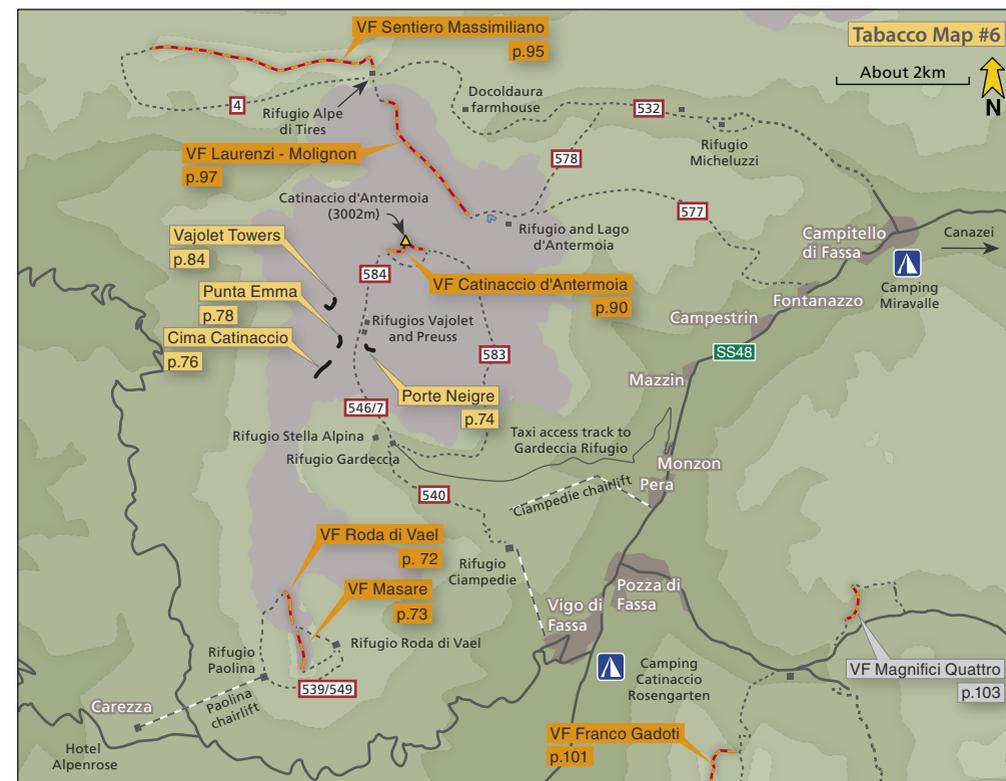
Unusually for the Dolomites there is no direct vehicle access to the Catinaccio Group and hence some thought must be given to logistics, particularly if you're planning a multi-day trip. Rifugio Gardeccia is well placed for accessing all the routes and is used as the start location from which individual approaches are described. The only exception is via ferrata *Masare and Roda di Vael* which is generally accessed using the Paolina chairlift, which departs from Hotel Alpenrose on the outskirts of Carezza. This approach is covered on page 72, though it should be noted the route can still be accessed from Rifugio Gardeccia with a slightly longer walk in.

Via ferrata *Sentiero Massimiliano* and *Laurenzi - Molignon* are usually approached from Campitello via the Val Duron (see page 92).

The approach to Rifugio Gardeccia has recently been the source of local controversy and is subject to change. The shuttle service which used to run between Pera di Fassa and Rifugio Gardeccia was discontinued in 2019 and the new approaches are described below. However, at the time of writing local groups were attempting to pressure the council into reinstating the shuttle service; the tourist office in Pozza di Fassa will be able to advise on the current state of play. Please note that all traffic is strictly prohibited from driving the private road to Rifugio Gardeccia.

**June - September** - Chairlifts Vajolet I & II can be taken from Pera di Fassa onto the plateau above Ciampedie. From the top of the chairlift follow path 540 west for 30 minutes to reach Rifugio Gardeccia.

**July - August** - The Ciampedie cable car can be taken from Vigo di Fassa to Rifugio Ciampedie. From the top of the cable car follow path 540 west for 40 minutes on foot to reach Rifugio Gardeccia. Out of season: It is possible to drive up to the small hamlet of Monzon above Pera di Fassa and then continue the rest of the way up the road on foot to reach Rifugio Gardeccia in one hour, 15 minutes.





### South Faces

**Approach (see map on page 71)** - From Rifugio Re Alberto, follow the well-worn path towards the towers to reach a ledge above a low gully at the base of the towers.

**Torre Delago Descent** - See page 87

**Torre Stabeler Descent** - From the summit make a 10m abseil into the gully on the north side. Make a second 25m abseil to reach a ledge and follow this west (left) for 10m. Enter a gully and descend this (some down-climbing) briefly to reach another ledge, and follow this 10m west (left) again to reach the chockstone between Torres Delago and Stabeler. From the chockstone, make four 20-25m abseils down the south side (as for descent from Torre Delago) to the scree at the base. Whilst it is possible to link the abseils together it can be hard to pull the ropes afterwards due to the slabby gradient.

**Torre Winkler Descent** - Down climb the final section of the *Winkler Crack* to reach a small ledge just below the summit (abseil ring). Make a 25m abseil to a wide ledge, still retracing the route of the *Winkler Crack*. Follow the ledge down to the west for 40m (exposed, down climbing sections of III), moving around the tower. Continue following the exposed ledge system for another 15m to reach an abseil ring. Make four 25m abseils between the towers to reach the ledge at the base of the tower.

### 1 Laurenzi-Molignon . . . . VF4C

This via ferrata takes the remote Molignon ridge just north of the Catinaccio group. The route is usually done from north to south, though it can be done in either direction. The via ferrata is hard and features some difficult down-climbing. The cables were replaced in 2017 and the route is now well-protected throughout. Because of the remote location, it is best done in conjunction with an overnight stay in either Rifugio Alpe di Tires or Rifugio d'Antermoia. In this way the route can be combined with *Sentiero Massimiliano* to give a superb two day trip.

**Approach** - From Rifugio Alpe di Tires, take path 4 in the direction of the Val Duron until you get to a junction with path 3A. Turn right onto path 3A following the signs for 'Ferrata Laurenzi', which it informs you is 30 minutes away. Ascend the easy slab of rock with wire protection to a second sign. Continue on the 3A, leading off to the left, signed 'Passo Molignon'. At the pass a large wooden sign directs you off path 3A onto a smaller track heading east. Follow red markers which zig-zag up through scree to the start of the wire and a large board detailing the correct use of via ferrata equipment.

**VF** - Follow the short section of wire which leads to the Molignon ridge-line. Continue along the broad ridge-line easily for 10 minutes until the route starts descending into a prominent saddle. The route first descends and then undulates along the ridge-line with well-protected but excellent exposure. An easier passage follows, before another traverse section leads to the top of a steep and narrow chimney. Down climb this before an awkward move leads to the route book hidden in a little cave.

From here, ascend on easier ground, following the red painted markings up to the summit of Molignon di Mezzo (2845m), often adorned with prayer flags. The views from the summit are spectacular on a clear day.

**Descent** - The descent can be unclear, particularly in bad visibility. Don't be tempted by the wide plateau leading east. Instead look for a small path, again marked with red paint, that initially leads southwest down a steep path. The route zig-zags down the mountainside through several loose gullies with intermittent wire protection. The final section of steep down-climbing is difficult with slack cable and a large step down. This is the official end of the via ferrata though there is still some rather steep down-climbing to be done. Follow a gully on the left (looking down) and then a successive scree spur with red markings, all the while keeping Lago Antermoia in front. Drop off the spur and enter the final exceedingly unpleasant scree gully which you follow all the way down to the large path 584 that runs east to west. Turn left heading east, passing the beautiful Lago d'Antermoia until you get to Rifugio Antermoia and a well-earned break. From Rifugio d'Antermoia, take path 580 to the east following the stream downhill. After a time the path forks. From here you can turn left onto path 578, which takes you back down into the Val Duron and ultimately back to path 532 and Rifugio Micheluzzi. Alternatively, turn right continuing on path 580, before taking path 577 down the Val de Dona back to Fontanazzo and ultimately Campitello.





### Settore Grotta/Cave Sector

A lovely sector with some excellent climbing. The routes around and immediately to the right of *Diedro* suffer from seepage after periods of heavy rain.

**Approach** - From the car park cross the road and follow the stream downhill on a large footpath for 50m until you see Settore Placca on the right. Settore Grotta is a further 20m down the path, also on the right.

- 1 **Cris #2** ..... 7c+  
Start in the cave, red paint marks the holds.
- 2 **Frau karci** ..... 7b+
- 3 **Il maniaco** ..... 7b+
- 4 **Spigolo** ..... 6a+
- 5 **Incoerente** ..... 6a+
- 6 **Fessura** ..... 6b  
A tricky move at the top.
- 7 **Rebo** ..... 6a+  
A direct start to *Fessura* on small holds.

- 8 **Diedro** ..... 5b  
The corner often suffers from seepage but is decent when dry.  
*Photo on page 107.*
- 9 **Lo spirito** ..... 6c+
- 10 **Rebus** ..... 7c+
- 11 **L'invisibile** ..... 6c
- 12 **Lax** ..... 6b
- 13 **Manolo** ..... 7b
- 14 **10 maggio sinistra** ..... 6a  
A slightly harder (and better) start to *10 maggio*.
- 15 **10 maggio** ..... 5b  
Start just right of the arete. A technical start to easier ground.



### Settore Placca/Slab Sector

The climbing here is very technical on small holds. The routes between *Kaos* and *No bis* are difficult to onsight if the holds aren't chalked.

*A rock fall here has destroyed the route Cavolo.*

- 16 **Penia** ..... 5a  
Short but technical and fingery.
- 17 **Fagiano** ..... 5c  
A fingery wall climb.
- 18 **Tieni duro** ..... 6a+
- 19 **Kaos** ..... 6c

- 20 **Senza respiro** ..... 6c+
- 21 **Micro test** ..... 7a
- 22 **No bis** ..... 7a+
- 23 **Fiesta** ..... 6a
- 24 **Cris** ..... 6b+
- 25 **Aladin** ..... 6a  
There has been a rockfall on this route since the photo but no change in grade.

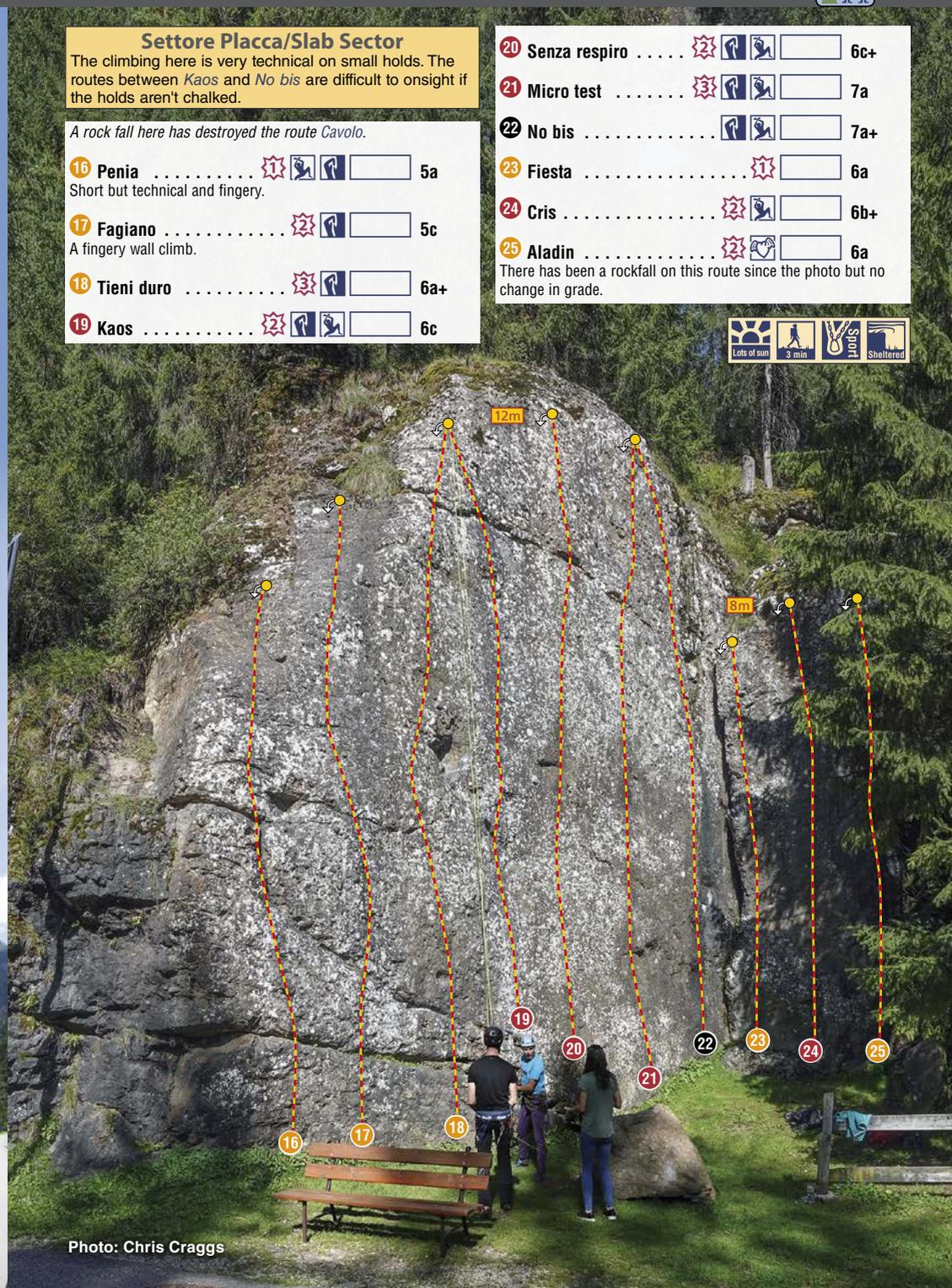


Photo: Chris Craggs



## 1 Dei Finanzieri/Colac . . . . . VF3C



VF3C

From the town of Canazei you can't help but notice the impressive northwest face of Colac rising up besides the western flank of the Marmolada. Despite being easily accessed from the top lift station of the Ciampac cable car, this via ferrata has a very Alpine character and feel. It receives very little sun and consequently it is not uncommon to encounter snow and ice late into the season. The rock quality is also more 'Alpine' in nature and the face has suffered several large rockfalls in the past. Despite this the via ferrata is engaging and has cleaned up nicely in recent times. The views from the summit are excellent and the descent down the southeast side makes for a complete and rewarding itinerary.

**Approach** - From Canazei, take the SP641 heading southeast towards the Marmolada. After 2.5km you reach the village of Alba. At the end of the village, just before you get to Penia, is the Ciampac cable car on the right - free parking is available here. The usual approach is via the cable car which runs from late June to mid September. For those wishing to walk, it is possible to take path 602 and then track 644 up to the lift station. Alternatively it is possible to walk straight up the winter ski piste, but both routes are arduous and not particularly pleasant.

Exit to the left from the top of the lift station and cross the ski pistes heading roughly southeast following signs for the via ferrata. The path skirts a small reservoir (that doesn't always have water in it) and then heads more steeply uphill through scree - no real path or signs. After 20 minutes you should reach the first section of cable. This turns out to be brief and a further stint of uphill walking takes you to the start of the cable proper.

**VF** - The route starts up an often-wet slab rounding a corner to climb a successive slab. This leads to a steep section of slightly overhanging stemples with some excellent exposure. From here the climbing gets easier although remains fairly sustained as you proceed along more slabs and up a number of corners. The route presents a number of false summits as you climb and often takes longer than people anticipate. The actual summit is worth the wait providing spectacular views of the surrounding area and in particular the Gran Vernel on the west flanks of the Marmolada.

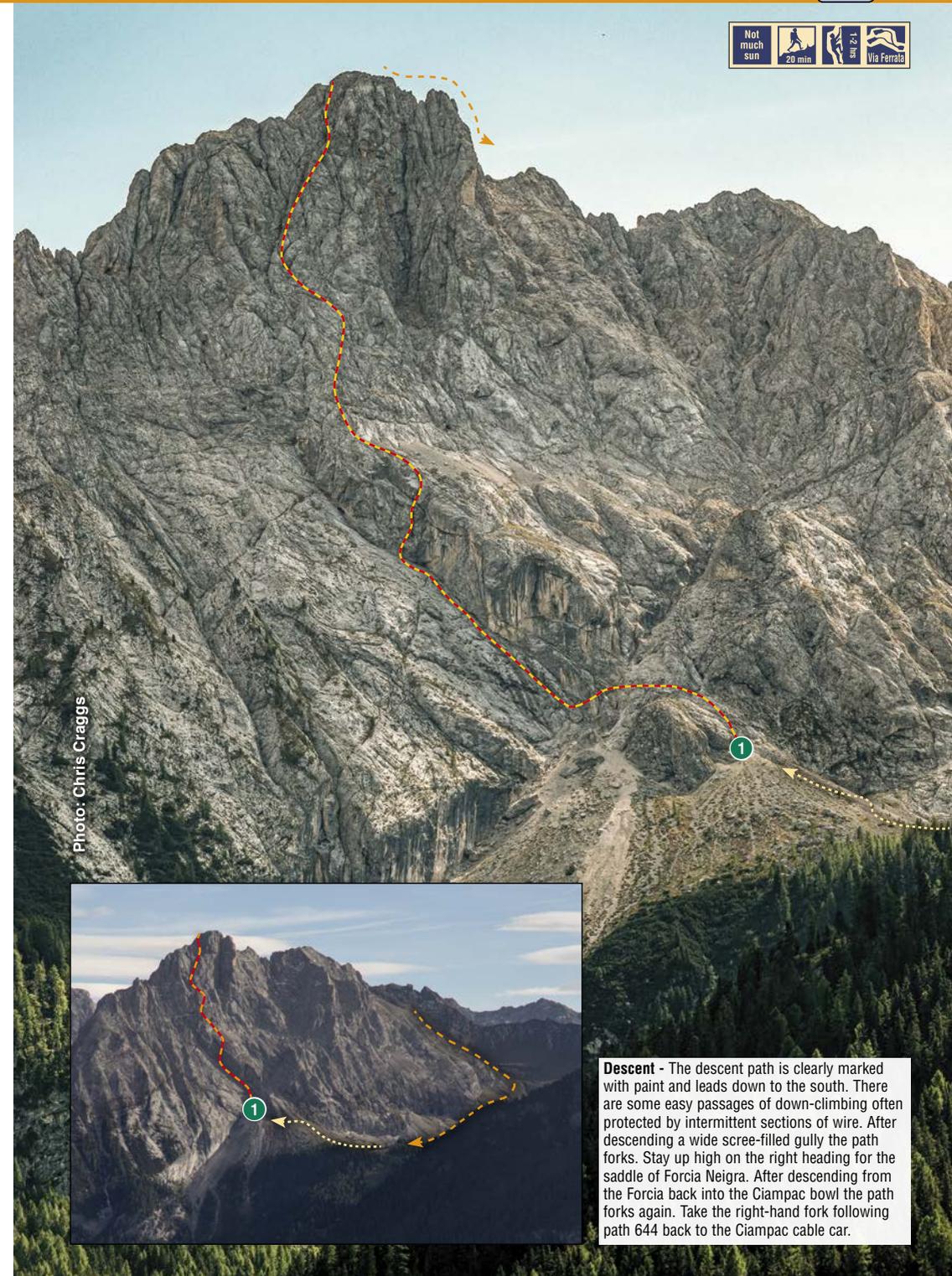
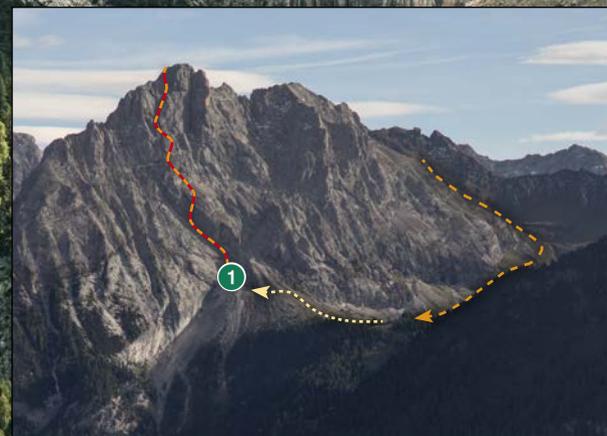
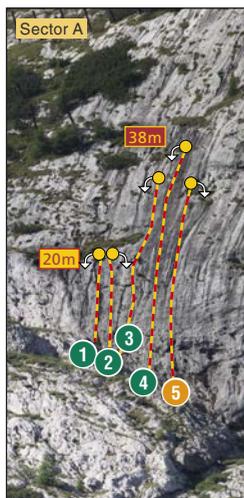


Photo: Chris Craggs

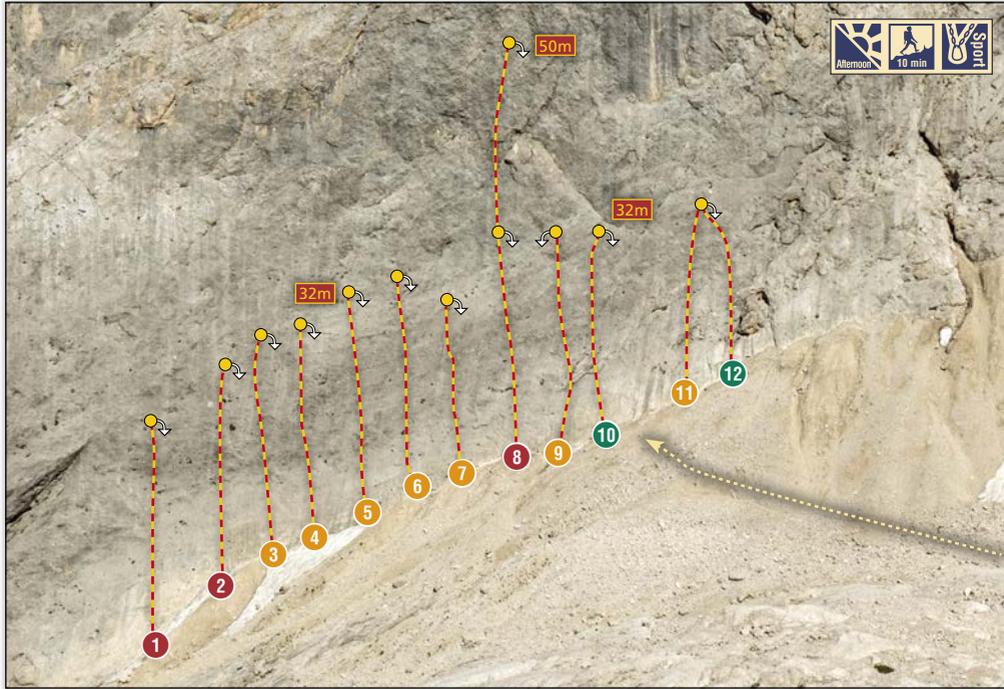


**Descent** - The descent path is clearly marked with paint and leads down to the south. There are some easy passages of down-climbing often protected by intermittent sections of wire. After descending a wide scree-filled gully the path forks. Stay up high on the right heading for the saddle of Forcia Neigra. After descending from the Forcia back into the Ciampac bowl the path forks again. Take the right-hand fork following path 644 back to the Ciampac cable car.



- 1 Il Solitario .....  4a  
Start 20m before you reach the avalanche barriers, at the top of a leftwards rising ramp. The climb is marked with a white rectangle containing the route name.
- 2 Solo parole .....  4b
- 3 Soccorso alpino .....  4c
- 4 Per Nicole .....  4c
- 5 La bugiarda .....  5a
- 6 Zaino blu .....  4a
- 7 La dieta .....  4a
- 8 La regola della rigola .....  4b
- 9 Arriva la pioggia .....  4a

- 10 New Route 1 .....  4b  
Start 5m to the right of *Arriva la pioggia*.
- 11 New Route 2 .....  4b
- 12 Scacco matto .....  4c
- 13 Monica .....  5b
- 14 Clessidra .....  5a
- 15 Grande mago .....  5c
- 16 Statica .....  5a  
Start 25m to the right of *Grande mago*.  
*Photo opposite.*
- 17 Dinamica Left .....  4c
- 18 Dinamica .....  4b





### 1 Via delle Trincee/La Mesola . VF4B

An interesting via ferrata which is predominantly a linear traverse (albeit with a good amount of ascent to start) as opposed to the usual up and down. The conglomerate rock also provides a welcome change to the more usual dolomite. Add in some First World War tunnels, a cannon and a rustic rifugio at the end and you have a very different and pleasant day! The via ferrata develops in three distinct sections and can be cut short if required. The Padon ridge on which it is situated does keep the snow until late in the season, and parties should prepare accordingly. It is worth checking the current condition with the Guides Office if you are planning on making an ascent early in the season. *Photo on page 160 and opposite.*

The initial section of wire provides the crux on the route; after that the difficulties ease, although there is a considerable amount of down-climbing. The views over the Fedaia Pass, Lago di Fedaia and the Marmolada (3343m) are superb.

**Note** - If you're planning on doing the entire route a headtorch is required for the tunnels at the end.

**Approach** - There are three possible starts to this route. Two are located on the Pordoi Pass which is easily accessible from Corvara, Canazei or any of the towns located near to the Sella group. The third gains the Padon ridge from the Fedaia Pass which can be approached from either Malga Ciapela or Canazei.

#### Starting from Arabba.

This is the usual, shortest and recommended approach via the Arabba Portavescovo cable car, which takes you to Rifugio Luigi Gorza. The cable car runs from early July to early September but it is always worth checking with the local tourist information offices to check because opening dates/times vary from season to season. Beware: like virtually everything in Italy, the cable car closes at lunchtime. It is worth getting a return ticket as you can do a circuit and then get the cable car back down.

If the cable car isn't running, it is possible to walk up from Arabba on path 698. However it is better to drive to the top of the Pordoi Pass and walk in from there (see below).

**Starting from the top of the Pordoi Pass.** This is a scenically beautiful but long approach (allow two and a half hours) contouring in from the top of the pass. There isn't much height gain to be had but the approach is long. Park in the large car park at the top of the pass opposite the Sass Pordoi cable car. Follow path 601 along the Padon Ridge following signs for the 'Viel del Pan' until you reach Rifugio Luigi Gorza and the top of the Arabba cable car described above.

**Starting from Rifugio Castiglioni alla Marmolada.** Park at the northwest end of the Lago di Fedaia reservoir near the dam wall. Follow path 698 steeply uphill to Rifugio Luigi Gorza which you reach in just under an hour.

From Rifugio Luigi Gorza head east, following the path that contours under the ridge until the via ferrata is signed off left. Follow the path uphill, zig-zagging through boulders to the start of the route.

**VF** - The initial section of wire is quite steep and rather challenging but thereafter things get easier. Continue following the wire, crossing a photogenic bridge with spectacular views back down to Arabba. The wire then begins to drop back down to a large open col. This is the end of the first section and escape is possible here (simply follow the path leading underneath the ridge back to the start of the route). At this point there is also short but worthwhile extension equipped in 2018. Follow the sign for 'Sasso dell'eremita' to reach the taut wires of the new section. The variant gains the summit of a small tower and offers excellent views and some exposed, vertical climbing. A separate descent route leads back to the main route.

To continue, follow the well-marked path up towards some old First World War ruins. The wire traverses past these on a series of ledges and goes round the back of the ridge where some exposed down-climbing is to be found. This brings you to the end of the second section of wire with a well-trodden path traversing a steep grassy slope. Again it is possible to escape here following the path that leads under the south side of the ridge back to the cable car. Many parties choose to go back here as this is the end of the climbing difficulties, however it is worth continuing if you have the time as the next section takes you through an interesting set of First World War tunnels that are well worth a look - a head torch is essential for this section.

Follow the path leading across the grassy slope heading towards the next obvious section of ridge curving around to the left. Shortly after you pick up the wire again as it traverses along the south side on the continuing ridge. Continue following it past a bricked-up tunnel until the path takes you over onto the north side of the ridge. Enter the first of a series of tunnels following the red waymarks (keep an eye out as they are often hard to spot in the dark). Continue following the path past short sections of wire and finally into a long tunnel system that again is well marked. After leaving this you will come across a large cannon from the war and Rifugio Padon where the route ends.

**Descent** - To return follow the 'Sentiero Geologico Arabba' path back around the south side of the Padon ridge to the cable car station and Rifugio Luigi Gorza. Alternatively, if you have walked up from Arabba, take the 699 down the winter ski piste back to the town.



**Descent** - Follow the halfway ledge (the Chamois Terrace) left (west) towards the top of the Sella Pass. After a short section of ascent approaching the Sella Towers, descend a well-worn gully left. Where this becomes steeper, make two abseils (20m - downclimbing possible at III. There is usually an equipped anchor on the right) to reach the base. Cut left on a scree path to return to the layby, or right on a path through grass and scree to reach the top of the Sella Pass.



**Approach (see map on page 196)** - From the top of the pass follow a faint climbers' path up towards the distinctive little tower of the Locomotiva (which looks more like a bunny!). Drop down towards the Val di Fassa (east) until the South Face becomes properly visible with the distinctive *Trenker Crack* providing an easy point of reference.

**Descent** - From the summit, follow a ledge on the south side towards the east. At the saddle between the 1st and 2nd Sella Towers, ascend to reach a ledge which contours across the southeast face of the 2nd Tower. Continue to a junction, and head down following cairns, keeping right at large cairn above a gully on the left, to reach short cliff. Make a 20m abseil from a ring (or down-climb, III) to reach the scree at the base.

It is also possible to abseil down *Via Steger*, making five 25m abseils from fixed belays.



### 1 Via Steger. . . . . IV+

A justifiably popular route that predominantly stays just right of the west ridge proper. It is recommended to start early to avoid the crowds. The climb is suffering from polish in places because of its popularity. Walk up to the saddle between the 'Locomotive' and the tower itself then follow the ledge onto the west side to the start of the route.

- 1) III+, 25m. Climb the leftward trending gully to a large ledge.
- 2) I, 20m. Walk right along the ledge and belay underneath the second chimney you encounter.
- 3) IV-, 40m. Climb the chimney belaying on the left at the top.
- 4) I, 15m. Walk right again and belay under a steep crack.
- 5) IV, 40m. Climb that crack which is easier than it first appears until you find yourself on the arete again.
- 6) IV+, 20m. Move onto the left side of the arete then traverse a further few metres, climb a narrow crack and then cross back over onto the right. Enter a corner and climb this until you reach easier ground and a belay at the top.
- 7) Easy ground now leads to the summit.

FA. Holzner, Steger 1928

**3 Tissi** . . . . .    **VI-**

A classic route combining face, crack and corner climbing. Unfortunately suffering a little from its popularity, the rock is polished in places. Most parties exit right after the fifth pitch to join the *Schober/Kleisl (Rossi)* route, but there is now a direct finish which follows the short upper arete.

Start on the right of the left pillar, just below and right of a large corner.

**1) VI-**, 40m. Ascend the grey rocks at the base then move left on a ledge below the large corner. Follow this, which narrows to form a tight chimney (rucksack wearers beware!). Trend slightly left to reach a stance below a yellow corner-crack.

**2) VI-**, 20m. Move left and up for 2m then traverse back right to enter the yellow crack. Climb this direct to a stance on a ledge below a gully.

**3) V+**, 20m. Step left and climb a corner-crack, then follow a yellow flake left to avoid a bulge. Climb direct to a stance on a detached block.

**4) III**, 30m. Climb the vegetated rock above direct (alternatively move right and climb a corner - harder at IV+) then follow a technical crack to reach a ledge. Follow this right.

**5) V+**, 40m. Climb direct to a niche and move right from this. Follow moves up the pocketed face up and left to reach a black crack (possible belay in case of rope drag). Climb the crack direct, pull through a bulge and continue to reach easy-angled rock leading right.

Exit right and follow a ledge, with an intermediate stance shared with *Icterus*, to join the final pitch of the *Schober/Kleisl (Rossi)* route, or alternatively continue as below:

**Direct Finish**

**6) VI**, 40m. Follow pitch 5 to the ledge then traverse left and climb a steep face direct. Move left to reach an arete, and climb this trending right on ever easier ground to exit onto the ledge below the summit.

FA. *Gluck, Rezzara 1935, Dari, Tissi, Aschieri, Guglielmini 1936*

FA. (Direct Finish) *Bernardi, Demetz 2009*



## 1 Delle Mèsules . . . . . VF4C

Also known as Possnecker after the branch of the German and Austrian Alpine Club who first equipped it in 1912, this via ferrata is a varied and surprisingly Alpine route. Although not technically too demanding for its grade, it is long and exposed, combining some narrow chimney squeezes with some very airy face climbing. There are some quite long run-outs between wires and a couple of easy but exposed unprotected ledges.

**Approach** - The via ferrata is easily accessed from the top of the Sella Pass, to the northeast of the Sella Towers. This can be reached from any of the villages around the Sella. From Canazei, take the SS48 then take a left turn onto the SS242, following it all the way to the top of the Sella Pass. From Selva in Val Gardena, take the SS242 to the south, ignoring the turn-off for the Val Badia (SS243) and continue to the top of the Sella Pass. There is parking at the pass itself or on the first few hairpins below.

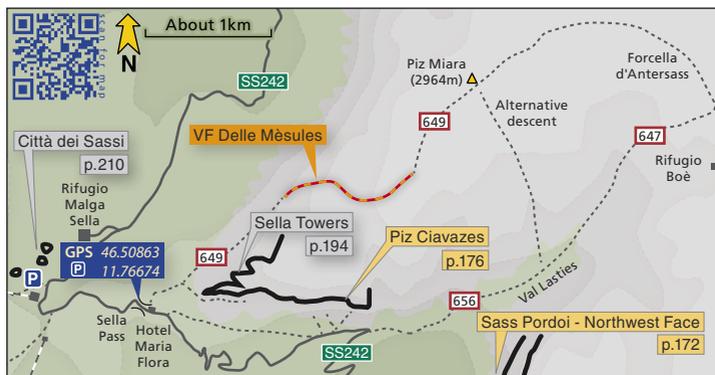
To avoid a long and arduous walk at the end of the day, a car drop is ideal for this route. Leave a car

at the roadside parking below the large wall of Piz Ciavazes, then continue in the second car to the pass. If you only have one car at your disposal, it is also possible to leave the car at Piz Ciavazes and walk up to the Sella Pass, following the path which cuts through the hairpins, thus getting the ascent out of the way early in the day.

From the top of the Sella Pass, take path 649 to the left of Hotel Maria Flora towards the Sella Towers. Follow this as it contours left and nears the base of the face. Continue to reach the start of the wire below a short corner.

**VF** - A very short section of unprotected easy climbing allows you to reach the start of the wire. This leads diagonally left before climbing a vertical crack. Continue up iron pegs to a section of good but slightly polished holds before reaching a small unprotected ledge. Follow this right and ascend an unprotected rocky gully, with a peg in the upper section. Continue to a short ladder and ascend this to reach a striking chimney. Climb using stemples on both sides of the rift, which gets steadily narrower, before pulling round to the left onto a pulpit on the exposed rock face itself. Airy climbing leads to a second ladder. Climb this, then continue with steep, enjoyable, well-protected and exposed climbing up the face above. Continue to exit onto a large scree ledge and follow a path left, which contours the terrace.

Follow cairns and markers to reach the rock forming the second (considerably easier) half of the route. The wire is intermittent but the going straightforward as you ascend a series of loose rocky banks before exiting onto the southern shoulder of Piz Selva. Continue easily to the summit.



**Descent** - Follow path 649 ( - see note below) which cuts right across the plateau (it is possible to take the more scenic path which follows the ridge-line on the left, but this is considerably longer) to reach the Forcella dai Ciamorces. Continue onto path 649 to reach the Sella de Pisciadu saddle. At the fork, continue on the 649 towards Rifugio Boè to reach Forcella d'Antersass. Join path 647 and continue to reach the Val Lasties. Descend the very beautiful valley towards Rifugio Pian Schiavaneis, then at the fork follow path 656 right. Descend this through shrubs to reach a waterfall. Shortly afterwards, branch right and follow the path down to reach the main road. If you have left a car at the top of the Sella Pass, a gruelling walk awaits, following a path which cuts steeply through the hairpins, following the road in a few sections to reach the parking.

**Note** - There is another, shorter route down which bypasses much of the walk across the plateau. As you cross the plateau towards the Forcella dai Ciamorces, when you are level with Piz Miara's summit cross, follow a path right towards a wide gully. This route is well marked but can be difficult if visibility is poor. Be aware that there are numerous wide gullies on this section of the plateau, many of which lead to sheer drops. Descend this, overcoming boulders with the help of two short sections of cable then continue to exit into the Val Lasties. Follow this right to join the normal descent.



- 10 On the edge .....    6b+
- 11 Malefix .....   6b
- 12 Eppes tiar die weiber .....   5c
- 13 Stoan esel .....    6b
- 14 W la libertà .....    6a+
- 15 Noar woll .....    6a
- 16 Shun besser .....    6a+
- 17 Chaotn am werk .....   5b
- 18 Cengia dei camosci .....  5a  
The bulging flake in the centre is hard.
- 19 Dopo lavoro .....  4c  
The start is steep and unobvious - easier above.



The first two routes are around to the left on a yellow slab.

- 1 **Giulietta** .....  4a
- 2 **Romeo** .....  4a
- 3 **Gaetano** .....  7a+
- 4 **Piccolo Matteo** .....  6a+
- 5 **Annalisa** .....  6b
- 6 **Gabriele Bonanno** .....  6c+
- 7 **Lucia** .....  7a+
- 8 **15 Settembre** .....  6b+

- 9 **Luca Morano** .....  6b+
- 10 **Dai animo** .....  7b+
- 11 **Oswald** .....  7c+

The next routes are around on the northeast face.

- 12 **Armin** .....  7c  
Start just right of the arete.
- 13 **Stefan** .....  6c+
- 14 **Sella Maus** .....  6b+

The northwest face has some good easier climbs.

- 15 **Nerone** .....  4c  
Glue-in bolts up the left arete.
- 16 **Zanna bianca** .....  4c  
Hard bulge on small pockets.
- 17 **Lord** .....  5c  
Bulge on slippery pockets leads to a flake.
- 18 **Principessa** .....  5b  
The central flake is good.
- 19 **Laica** .....  5a
- 20 **Diuck** .....  4a  
Just left of the arete.
- 21 **Jerry** .....  4a
- 22 **Tom** .....  5a  
Be careful clipping the bolt on the hard initial moves.



- 1 **Siforal** .....   6b+  
*Photo opposite.*
- 2 **Brontolo** .....   5c  
Powering through the bulge is hard work.
- 3 **Pisolo** .....   5a  
The shallow groove left of centre - polished and awkwardly bolted.
- 4 **Mammolo** .....   4b  
Easy pockets to a polished final bulge.
- 5 **Cucciolo** .....   4a  
Pleasant slabby face on the right.
- 6 **Violetta** .....  4a
- 7 **Rosa** .....  4a
- 8 **Margherita** .....  4a
- 9 **Girasole** .....   6a  
Take care going for the chain at the top.
- 10 **Giglio** .....  6a

### **Sandro Pertini Via Ferrata**

The popular Sandro Pertini via ferrata, named after a former Italian president who spent his summers in Selva, was closed and demolished in 2014.

From its initial construction in 2004, the construction of the via ferrata was plagued by controversy and environmental protests. Built in an area protected by Nature 2000 - the EU environmental protection scheme - it was claimed that the route had been constructed without the proper permissions and, following appeals from environmentalists, the route was closed and reopened several times.

However, a complaint submitted in 2012 was accepted by the State Committee and its definitive closure was ordered. Local councils fought hard to protect the via ferrata, with the municipality of Selva lodging a series of appeals and counter-arguments to try to convince the Italian parks' authority to allow the route to remain and demonstrate that damage to local wildlife had been minimal.

This was to no avail and in autumn 2014 Province officials announced their verdict that the route posed a threat to the environment and the habitats of local wildlife.

The demolition of the via ferrata was carried out by a local firm and paid for by the council.

Sandro Pertini was included in the 2014 edition of the Rockfax guidebook and has been included again to inform climbers that it has now been closed.

**1 Camino Curvo** . . . . .    **IV+**

Contrary to its name, the route is situated just right of the 'curved chimney' up a large spur. Initially it is a little scrappy and dirty, but the rock improves and the section under the roof is particularly enjoyable.

Start at the base of the left-hand of two prominent chimneys, at the highest point of a short scree ramp.

- 1) IV, 25m. Climb the short corner, which forms the first part of the chimney, to a good stance above a chockstone.
- 2) IV, 30m. Exit right from the chimney, and follow a ramp to a short corner. Climb this, then ignore the crack above and move right to a comfortable stance.
- 3) II, 35m. Follow easy ground right.
- 4) II, 25m. Continue in the same line on vegetated rock.
- 5) I, 45m. Follow a grassy ramp on the arete to a good stance.
- 6) IV-, 30m. Move left to enter a short chimney, and follow this slightly right to a stance below a crack.
- 7) IV-, 40m. Climb the crack direct then move left.
- 8) III+, 30m. Follow the continuation crack back right to the arete, below a short corner and a roof.
- 9) IV, 25m. Ignore the corner and instead climb to its left (be careful to avoid rope drag). Circumvent a crack to the side of the roof on its left then move back right to a good stance.
- 10) IV, 15m. Climb a short crack on good holds.
- 11) IV-, 40m. Continue direct to reach a ledge. Cross this and climb the face above to a stance below a corner.
- 12) IV, 20m. Climb a couple of metres up the corner then exit left then move back into the large chimney. Climb this to a stance on pegs.
- 13) IV+, 30m. Continue up the chimney, with sustained climbing, then exit right up a prominent crack to a large cave.
- 14) III+, 50m. Exit the cave left, pass through a tunnel, then continue up easier but loose ground to the saddle.

*FA. Reither, Gerhards 1910*

**2 Via Cinquantenario GAM** . . .   **6b**

An excellent sport route at a reasonable grade. Take care with route finding on the 10th pitch, as there is a short traverse left along a ledge which is easily missed. Very well-equipped and on mostly excellent rock. Bolts are sparse on some of the easier pitches so a small trad rack is recommended.

Start below a prominent crack running left to right.

- 1) 6b, 30m. 2) 6a, 25m. 3) 6a, 30m. 4) 6b, 15m. 5) 5b, 30m. 6) 5c, 30m. 7) 5c, 45m. 8) III, 60m. 9) 6b, 35m. 10) 4c, 25m. 11) 4c, 55m. 12) 5b, 40m. 13) III, 20m. 14) 6a, 35m. 15) 5c, 25m. 16) 5c, 60m. 17) 5a, 30m.

*FA. GAM Bolzano 2005*

The south face of Sasso delle Nove, perched above the lunar landscape of the Fanis plateau, is without doubt the most surreal crag in the Dolomites. The large face, which is almost completely devoid of features, is often referred to as the 'Messner Slabs' after Reinhold's classic route that takes the middle of the face direct.

The exceptionally compact rock gives perfect friction climbing but does make gear placements few and far between - expect some big runouts on all the climbs here. The approach to the face is rather long and tiring with many parties choosing to bivvy under the face or at the nearby Rifugio (Ücia) Lavarella. Those that do make the effort to get to this unique crag will be rewarded with almost certain solitude.

### Approach

The face is usually reached from either the village of Badia Abtei to the west, or from Rifugio Pederu, to the east. Which you choose depends largely on where you're based and if you plan on using Rifugio Lavarella for an overnight stop. The Jeep taxi service from Pederu is the shortest approach, but Rifugio Pederu itself is fairly remote and a long drive from anywhere.



**San Leonardo/Badia Abtei** is located in the Alta Badia just north of La Villa. From Corvara, take the SP244 north for 7km passing through La Villa until you enter Badia Abtei. Then follow signing across the river to 'San Leonardo' and the 'Santa Croce' chairlift. There is a large car park behind the lift station. Take the two stage Santa Croce/La Crusc chairlift (which runs from late June to late September) to the top station. Then follow signs up to the chapel and Rifugio La Crusc which you reach in 5 minutes. From here you get a superb view of the impressive west face of Sas dla Crusc. Turn onto path 7, which starts directly behind the rifugio, first heading east before turning south and contouring under the scree ledges of Sas dla Crusc. The path becomes increasingly steep with several sections of easy scrambling protected by cable. Follow this for just under 2 hours until you reach the lunar plateau. Continue following path 7 which now heads east across the bowl. Shortly after the prominent face of Sasso delle Nove comes into view to the north.

There is no official path to the face so pick the best route available through the scree. **Rifugio Pederu** is situated at the head of the beautiful Val Tamerse. From the popular ski town of San Vigilio, follow signs down a small road leading southeast towards 'Rifugio Pederu'. The final section of the approach is subject to a toll of 7 euros per car between the hours of 07:30 and 16:30; the charge can currently be avoided by travelling outside of these hours. Park outside the rifugio at the end of the road. From here, take the Jeep taxi service (it is worth checking with the rifugio for exact times) to Rifugio (Ücia) Lavarella. If you wish to proceed on foot to the rifugio it takes about two hours following path 7 up the vehicle track. From Rifugio Lavarella, follow path 7 first north and then east for just under an hour until the face comes into view on your right (north). There is no official path to the face so pick the best route available through the scree.



### 1 Lacedelli . . . . . VIII-

A fantastic climb and a Dolomites classic. The route was once considered the hardest in the Dolomites and even today requires a committed party. *Photo this page.*

Start the route at the base of a spur below the right edge of the first great ledge, to the left of a yellow/black overhanging face.

1) III, 60m. Climb the spur easily from right to left.

2) IV+, 30m. Climb a compact grey crack leftwards to reach the base of a yellow overhanging crack.

3) VIII- or VI+/A0, 30m. Climb the steep yellow wall above. After a few metres trend right by a flake on the left for a few metres then continue more or less direct, following the many pegs.

Move back left for a few metres to a small ledge with belay pegs.

4) VI-, 40m. Move direct then right, overcome a bulging niche direct then continue more easily to a loose ledge. Traverse left to the base of a corner.

5) V+, 35m. Climb the corner and exit to a stance on the left.

6) V, 40m. Climb direct then right to moves up an enjoyable cracked wall. At the pronounced roof, make an exposed, characteristic and very cramped traverse left, squeezing below the roof to reach the first great ledge.

7) I, 70m. Traverse left to reach a peg, where the next pitch begins. Route finding can be challenging in the upper sections, but the pegs and that offer good indications.

8) V, 30m. Climb the crack above, aiming for a white streak around 50m above the ledge. Overcome a bulge to reach the belay on a small ledge.

9) V+, 35m. Climb direct then right to reach a yellow/white corner. Climb the corner to just below its end, then exit right around the arete. Traverse horizontally for 15m to reach a small ledge.

10) IV+, 40m. Climb grey, featured rock and move easily right to a belay on a good ledge.

11) V+, 40m. Continue right on the loose ledge to a cluster of pegs with tat then climb direct. Follow moves right to arrive below a detached boulder, climb to the right of this then move left to a stance on a small ledge.

12) VI-, 30m. Climb direct to a roof, then climb a corner on the right (beware of loose pegs) to reach the belay below a yellow corner-crack.

13) VI-, 30m. Climb the overhanging chimney-crack above, then leave this following pegs to the right.

14) VI-, 40m. Climb grey compact rock, then overcome a bulge and traverse right to belay near a niche.

15) IV, 50m. Climb left around an overhang then move back above it. Continue on easier ground to the second great ledge. From here it is possible to continue to the top in 4 pitches, but descent along the ledge leftwards is strongly recommended.

FA. Lacedelli, Lorenzi, Ghedina 1952



## 1 Tomaselli VF5C

Once considered the hardest via ferrata in the Dolomites, *Tomaselli* is one of the jewels of the Ampezzo valley. The situation is dramatic and the views from the summit are superb, particularly on clear days when climbers on the nearby ferrata *Giovanni Lipella* can easily be seen. The rock is solid, the route technically demanding and, best of all, the summit can only be accessed by the via ferrata, lending a sense of achievement and a guilty elitism to the whole affair. The descent involves another short via ferrata before leading you into a steep scree gully which can be unpleasant when busy. It is worth taking a headtorch to explore the numerous interesting tunnels and war remains both on the approach and descent of this route, although you won't need one for the route itself. *Photo page 1.*

**Approach** - From Cortina, take the SS48 to the west following signs for the Falzarego Pass (2117m). There is ample parking at the Lagazuoi cable. From here, take the cable car then descend path 20 towards Rifugio Scotoni. On reaching the junction, branch right onto path 20b (marked 1020 on old Tabacco maps) and continue past remains of the First World War. Contour under the rock face to reach the site of the former Bivacco della Chiesa, decommissioned in 2014 but still marked on many maps. From here a short walk leads to the start of the ferrata.

**VF** - The route begins with an traverse left, then the wire continues more vertically. Where the wire ends, continue up a short and loose gully with ring stemples. Then follow the well-worn path which wends through the scree (possible escape route down a gully back to path 20b). The path narrows considerably and is protected by wire in the most exposed sections. Where the wire forks, go right and continue vertically until reaching the characteristic exposed slab to the summit.

**Descent** - The descent requires the down climbing of another short ferrata. Follow the wire from the summit to the north east and descend for around 40 minutes. Continue down a loose gully to reach Forcella Grande. From here, join the path 20b and either, retrace your steps past the Bivacco della Chiesa, or continue south to Forcella Travenanzes, joining onto path 402 to walk back to the bottom of the cable car.

**1 Via del Drago** . . . . .    **V+**

A classic route which takes a logical line up predominantly excellent rock. The long traverse feels bold but is well protected (and also avoidable) and the upper pitches provide enjoyable and technical corner climbing. Recommended, even if the perhaps excessive pegging on some pitches detracts somewhat from the route's original 'dragon-like' daring. *Photo this page.* Start in the centre of the face on black rock, ascend rightwards up a small ledge to reach a small corner.

- 1)** IV+, 30m. Climb the corner, exit and move right for 3 metres then climb a second corner to exit right to a good belay on a small platform.
- 2)** IV+, 30m. Ignore the yellow corner above and step left, then enter a chimney. Climb the chimney passing a chockstone near the top to move right onto a ledge. Belay below a crack.
- 3)** III, 20m. Follow a large flake right over easy ground then move up and left to a thread belay.
- 4)** V+, 30m. Climb the slab above, moving left then back right level with a ledge on the left. Climb direct for a few metres then ascend diagonally left. Continue left past a flake to a good belay.
- 5)** V+, 25m. Move left then climb a yellow crack direct before an exposed and rather loose traverse left leads to a belay on a ledge.

**6)** V, 35m. Continue in the same line, making an initially delicate traverse following a horizontal yellow crack (exposed but well protected) to then ascend to the base of a pillar.

**6a)** II, 35m. For an easier variant, ascend a small corner above the belay to reach a large ledge and follow this easily left (II) on loose ground to rejoin the first variant.

**7)** IV+, 40m. Climb a black crack to the right of the pillar leftwards, then from the top of the pillar continue in the same line following a flake to a belay below a crack.

**8)** IV, 30m. Climb the crack above then exit left, pass the base of a small corner and climb a second crack to a belay on the left, just left of the small black roof that caps the corner.

**9)** V+, 25m. Climb the large black corner above, pulling through an overhang near to top to reach a belay on a ledge.

**10)** V, 30m. Follow the continuation corner above for 30m, keeping mainly on the right wall then exit right onto a ledge below inclined rock.

**11)** IV-, 45m. Climb the slab above from left to right then enter a chimney. Follow this to a thread belay to the right of the prominent yellow roofs.

**12)** IV-, 20m. Follow a crack direct or slightly left to exit onto a large ledge just right of a yellow tower.

*FA. Barbier, Giambisi, Platter 1969*

**2 M. Speciale** . . . . .     **V+**

One of the best and most popular routes on this face. The route follows two successive black streaks. The harder upper pitches can be avoided by exiting right after pitch 5 to join the normal descent from the face.

Start near the rightmost point of the lowest horizontal break, just right of a cave a few metres higher up the face.

- 1)** IV+, 50m. Climb a shallow crack to reach the break in the face. Climb right then back left to a good belay in a small hollow.
- 2)** V+, 50m. Climb left to reach a small corner. Follow this then the successive corner to reach a small ledge. Move right then climb direct.
- 3)** III+, 40m. Follow the black streak to belay before a large loose scree ledge.
- 4)** III, 45m. Ascend the ledge aiming for the base of another black streak on the wall above. Belay just left of the streak.
- 5)** IV, 50m. Climb a small corner on the left side of the black streak. Either avoid an overhang on the right climbing a short steep corner then continue direct, or move 5m left to follow a crack before moving diagonally right to reach the second ledge. Possible escape right here.
- 6)** III, 35m. Climb easier ground to the left.
- 7)** III, 35m. Continue in the same line to a belay below a steep black wall to the right of an arete.
- 8)** V+, 50m. Continue left to a black ledge by the arete, then move diagonally right up an inclined ramp to reach a steep face. Step up and climb a black bulge, then move left to reach a ledge. Follow this 10m left to belay below an overhanging crack.
- 9)** V+, 45m. Climb the overhanging crack then continue vertically following a corner to reach a ledge.
- 10)** II, 30m. Do not climb the crack above but instead move right and continue on easy ground to a large scree-strewn amphitheatre.

*FA. Barbiero, Doglioni, Signoretti, Zannini 1986*

**3** Via del Buco Alta Variant **V+**

Start on a small ledge with a piton a few metres from the ground on a leaning pillar. There is a deep yellow chimney on the right, and the route is just right of, and 30m below, two rock windows.

- 1) IV-, 35m. Climb easily left then take a right-trending corner-ramp to a good belay left of a flake.
- 2) IV, 30m. Climb up and left to reach a small ledge, then climb a crack on the right before moving back left to belay on a ledge.
- 3) III+, 30m. Climb the slabs above with superb climbing for the grade then continue in a corner-crack. Move left around a small roof to the belay.
- 4) IV, 25m. Follow a crack above the belay (well-pegged) then move left onto slabs to avoid a bulge. Move back into the crack to reach a ledge and a good stance.
- 5) IV, 40m. Move up and right to avoid a yellow overhang above the belay then climb back left to re-enter the crack. Follow this past a small ledge on the right and continue to a stance on larger vegetated ledge. Here variants *Alta* and *Bassa* meet.
- 6) III+, 30m. Climb direct up the slabs above to a thread belay to the left and below the yellow face. This pitch is shared with *Bassa*.
- 7) I, 20m. Traverse easily rightwards under the yellow face.
- 8) V+, 20m. Climb direct then follow an enjoyable corner.
- 9) III+, 25m. Climb the continuation chimney past various chockstones and belay below a corner on the right.
- 10) V+, 35m. Climb the corner-crack rightwards, with more difficult moves early on, to reach a small ledge on the left just before the corner's end. Route-finding can be difficult so take note of the pegs and signs of progression to ensure you are on the right route.
- 11) III, 25m. Don't continue up the corner; instead follow a vague crack through loose ground diagonally right to top out by a prominent boulder surrounded by barbed wire.

**4 Scoiattoli Direct - Ghedina**

V-

.....

An enjoyable route which takes the tower's central face.

Start 20m right of *Via delle Guide*, just left of a boulder.

**1)** III+, 40m. Enjoyable climbing leads direct up broken rock, passing a flake on the left, to reach a good stance on a ledge.

**2)** III+, 30m. Move right to avoid a crack, then back left and direct to a ledge. Follow a ramp left to a stance on a little pinnacle.

**3)** IV-, 20m. Step left then follow a vegetated ramp right. Move back left to a stance.

**4)** IV, 30m. Trend right climbing a series of cracks up an excellent slab to reach a stance on a small ledge on an arete.

**5)** IV-, 25m. Climb direct passing numerous threads to reach a ledge.

**6)** IV+, 20m. Continue direct up a cracked vertical wall to a stance below a short corner.

**7)** IV, 25m. Step down and left then enter a rightwards trending chimney. Exit left after a few metres then continue to a stance level with vegetation on the left.

**8)** IV-, 40m. Climb diagonally right up a vague ridge then traverse left to a belay on a ramp below an overhanging wall. It is possible to escape right before the leftwards traverse to join the vegetated terrace of the descent, thus avoiding the final, more difficult, pitch.

**9)** V-, 40m. Climb a crack direct then move left to three pegs. Climb a second steep crack and enter the continuation corner. Follow this to its end then exit right to the summit.

*FA. Ghedina, Michielli, Zardini 1954*

**Torre Grande - Cima Sud, East Face**

Cima Sud swings around to present an east-facing wall which has an excellent harder alternative to *Via Myriam* plus a few other things of interest.

**Approach (see map on page 376)** - From the top of the Cinque Torri chairlift at Rifugio Scoiattoli follow the track towards the towers then contour around the right-hand side of Torre Grande on a smaller path following signs for 'Rifugio Cinque Torri'. The face is soon reached on the left-hand side. From Rifugio Cinque Torri, follow the climbers' path which ascends towards the face then follow this left below the face itself.

**Descent** - For climbs finishing on the summit, head to the north side of Cima Sud where you will find an abseil station. Make a short abseil of 20m into the gully between Cima Nord and Cima Sud. Then make your way down left (looking down) to reach a large cemented abseil ring at a huge chockstone. Make a long 50m free hanging abseil into the gully between Cima Sud and Nord. Descend the loose scree gully east until you reach a final abseil station where the ground gets steeper. Make a final 25m abseil back down to the ground and the start of *Fessura Dimai*, taking care not to dislodge any rocks onto climbers ascending the first pitch.

**5 Fessura Dimai** .       **VI-**

A great climb with straightforward route-finding following the striking Dimai Crack - a must for chimney enthusiasts.

- 1) III, 40m. Start at the foot of the large gully between Cima Sud and Cima Nord. Climb the gully for 18m before following a left-trending chimney to the foot of the face and Dimai Crack proper.
- 2) V+, 30m. Climb the crack past a large flake for 10m before stepping left to the base of a corner. Climb the corner and subsequent crack for 20m. Belay in the niche at the top.
- 3) VI-, 20m. Continue up the corner-crack for 30m, passing a small overhang on the left, and belay below an overhang breached by a large crack.
- 4) VI-, 30m. Take the overhanging crack direct on good holds and follow the natural line for another 30m until a large ledge is reached.
- 5) II, 30m. Traverse 15m left on the ledge and follow a loose but easy chimney to the summit.

FA. Degasper, Dimai, Dimai 1932

**Descent** - For climbs finishing on the summit, head to the south side of Cima Nord and make a short 20m abseil down to a ledge between the two towers. Follow this to reach a large cemented abseil ring at a huge chockstone. Make a long 50m free hanging abseil into the gully between Torre Grande Sud and Torre Grande Nord. Descend the loose scree gully east until you reach a final abseil station where the ground gets steeper. Make a final 25m abseil back down to the ground and the start of *Fessura Dimai*, taking care not to dislodge any rocks onto climbers ascending the first pitch.



### South Face

**Approach (see map on page 416)** - From the layby, follow a small tarmac road signed for 'Punta Fiames', path 202. Follow this to reach the old railway, now a wide cycle track, and follow this left for 200m to reach a path on the right signed for 'Punta Fiames'. Ascend through the woods following red and white markers. Ascend the scree slope below the ridge-line direct to reach a path which cuts horizontally across the scree and follow this to the left to arrive below the buttress of the ridge-line. Follow a path on the left to ascend a scree gully, then follow ledges along the vegetated base of the Punta della Croce, reaching the gully which separates this from Punta Fiames itself. Here climb left over vegetated and dirty (III-) terrain and continue ascending diagonally left, ascending a steep gully and then ascending diagonally towards the top of a broad scree cone at the base of the face itself, on the left side below two chimneys.

**Descent** - From the summit, descend to the north following the path towards the notch between Punta Fiames and Punta della Croce. Follow this as it leads east through shrubs and a short but exposed section of cable to reach the Forcella del Pomagagnon. From here, descend the wide scree gully to the south to reach the path which cuts horizontally across the scree at the base of the ridge-line. Continue via path 202, descending through scree and vegetation to return to the car.



The Sorapiss Group forms a horseshoe of steep rock walls that are only open to the north. At their base lies the beautiful Lago di Sorapiss, one of the most striking lakes in the Dolomites characterised by its fairytale cyan blue colour. The Giro del Sorapiss provides a classic circuit around the Sorapiss group with the aid of two via ferratas and a protected path. The climbing is never technically difficult but there are numerous exposed sections with no protection. Whilst none of the via ferratas are individually exceptional the circuit done in its entirety is undoubtedly one of the gems of the Dolomites. The scenery is stunning and ever changing, the climbing absorbing, and the positions fantastic. This can all be enjoyed in a surprising amount of solitude given the quality of the route.

The circuit can be done clockwise or anti-clockwise and both directions have their merits. For the purposes of this guide the circuit will be described clockwise, starting with via ferrata *Alfonso Vandelli* and finishing with via ferrata *Francesco Berti*, by way of *Sentiero Carlo Minazio*. The via ferratas can be done individually, but due to their remote locations this generally forces an 'out and back' approach and, to realise their full potential, they are best done as part of a larger itinerary. The circuit described here can be done in a single day but will take a competent party around 12-16 hours. A stay at Rifugio Vandelli the previous night will remove the walk in from the Tre Croce pass. Most parties opt for a two day approach using one of the two bivouacs on route. Bivacco Slataper is located on the south side of the circuit just under the highest point of the route at Forcella del Bivacco (2670m). Bivacco Comici is located equidistant between *Sentiero Carlos Minazio* and via ferrata *Alfonso Vandelli* on the northeast side of the circuit. Which bivouac you choose will depend on how you're doing for time, the weather conditions and if there is space for you! A walking map is essential (Tabacco 03 - Cortina d'Ampezzo) due to the large nature of the circuit. Be sure to take plenty of water as there are few (if any) opportunities to fill up on route.

**Approach** - From Cortina take the SS48 east signed for 'Passo Tre Croci'. Drive to the top of the pass and park in any of the numerous roadside parking spots (can get very busy during peak season). From the top of the Tre Croci Pass follow the road downhill to the east (in the direction of Misurina) for 250m before turning off right onto path 215. Follow the well-marked path through forest and then scrubland all the way to Rifugio Vandelli. This usually takes just under 2 hours.

**Descent** - From Rifugio Vandelli retrace your steps back down path 215 back to the top of the Tre Croci Pass and your car.



**1 Alfonso Vandelli** ..... **VF3B**  
From Rifugio Vandelli the clockwise circuit begins. Follow path 243 south-east to reach the impressive west wall of Croda del Fogo and the start of via ferrata *Alfonso Vandelli*. The route is immediately interesting with some good exposure as a series of ladders ascend steeply, allowing height to be gained quickly. After some two hours of climbing, a partially protected ledge system leads to Col del Fogo/Fuoco (2360m) and some outstanding views over the surrounding area. The path descends north-east before turning east and then south, losing nearly 400m of height before reaching Bivacco Comici (possible overnight stop), an hour and a half after departing from the col.

**2 Sentiero Carlo Minazio** . . . . **VF1C**  
Continue following path 243 south and then south-east as it ascends to reach Forcella del Banco after 30 minutes of uphill walking. This is the start of Sentiero Carlo Minazio and a long undulating traverse then follows as the route winds its way towards Cengia Inferiore dei Colli Neri with intermittent wire on the more exposed sections, and fantastic views over the Val di San Vito to the east. With the ledge system completed the valley opens up, where a right turn onto path 247 towards Bivacco Slataper is made (here path 226 can be used as an escape route down the Val di San Vito if required). Entering into the Fond de Rusecco basin, the path ascends up a large scree bowl to reach Bivacco Slataper (possible overnight stop) in around an hour of walking, some 3-4 hours after departing Bivacco Comici.

**3 Francesco Berti** ..... **VF3C**  
From Bivacco Slataper continue following the path west, ascending 70m to shortly reach Forcella delle Bivacco, the highest point of the route at 2670m which yields impressive views over the Cadore valley below. The following descent down via ferrata *Francesco Berti* whilst not particularly difficult is very exposed and care must be taken, especially on some of the looser sections. There are several airy ladders and multiple ledges to negotiate as the route winds its way around the southern and then south-western flanks of Croda Marcora with several unprotected sections. Ignore the turn off onto path 241 which leads down to Dogana Vecchia in Cadore and instead stay up high, following route 242 as it turns north, traversing an undulating scree path with more impressive exposure, to reach Forcella Sora la Cengia del Banco, some two hours after departing Bivacco Slataper.

Unfortunately, as the sign informs you Rifugio Vandelli is still several hours away at this point, though the route is now nearly entirely downhill. Turn right, north-east onto path 215 and begin the long descent down scree into the glacial landscape of the Tondi di Sorapiss. Fortunately the views towards the lake and Dito di Dio (Finger of God) are spectacular and those with sharp eyes will be able to pick out Rifugio Vandelli nestled in the trees to the north-east of the azure waters. Continue descending through the lunar landscape, eventually skirting the northern shores of Lago di Sorapiss to reach Rifugio Vandelli and a well earned rest, 4-5 hours after leaving Bivacco Slataper.

### Approach

From Cortina, take the Tre Croci Pass (SS48) east following signs for 'Misurina'. After 13km turn left onto the SP49, still following signs towards 'Misurina', to reach the lake in a further 2km. Drive 50m past the Grand Hotel Misurina at the end of the lake and park opposite the right turn towards the Tre Cime, just short of Albergo Dolomiti. There are parking spaces on either side of the road.

From the parking area, follow path 224a signposted towards Palestra di Roccia and Monte Popena Basso. Follow the path as it leads steeply uphill for 40 minutes, ignoring any turnoffs until you draw level with the face (it is further up than you think) and reach a second signpost indicating Palestra di Roccia. Turn left, following the signpost and begin the traverse under the face.





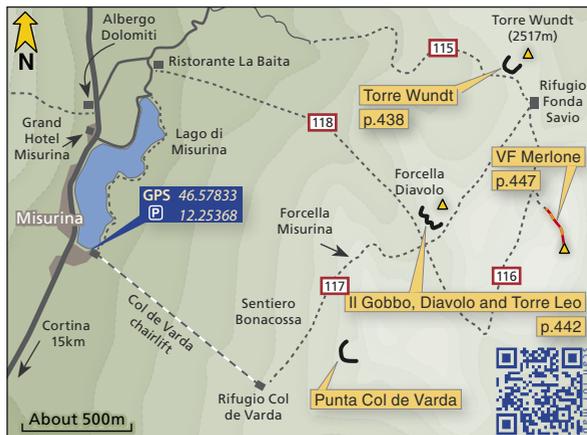


This elegant little peak is situated at the southern tip of the small Cadini di Misurina group, just east of Lago di Misurina. The peak is easily distinguished by a chimney-crack that splits the middle of the face. This striking feature must have appealed to Emilio Comici who had a reputation for seeking 'golden lines' that went direct. Nowadays it is usual to exit left just below the steep headwall and thus the grade is fairly amenable. The logical line, good climbing and easy access from the top of the Col de Varda chairlift makes this an appealing climb which is becoming increasingly popular.

### Approach

From Cortina, take the Tre Croci Pass (SR48) east following signs for 'Misurina'. After 13km turn left onto the SP49 following signs to 'Misurina' which you reach in a further 2km. Park either on the lake shore or at the Col de Varda chairlift car park. Take the Col de Varda chairlift which runs from early July until mid September. You get a good view of the climb and approach while on the lift. If you wish to proceed on foot, follow path 120 underneath the lift for 45 minutes.

From the top station, follow path 117 (Sentiero Bonacossa) northwards for 5 minutes until a small climbers' path leads off right through scree to the base of the face.



### Approach

From Cortina, take the Tre Croci Pass (SS48) east following signs for 'Misurina'. After 13km turn left onto the SP49 following signs to 'Misurina' which you reach in a further 2km. Drive 50m past the end of the lake and take the road signed towards the 'Tre Cime' and 'Rifugio Auronzo'. Follow the road past a campsite for 750m (if you reach Lago di Antorno you've gone too far) until you reach a small road leading off right signed towards 'Rifugio Fonda Savio' and path number 115. Turn right and continue down the small road to a small car park with the Rifugio Fonda Savio goods lift (teleferica) at the end. Occasionally the rifugio closes the final barrier into the car park. If this is the case you will have to park on the shores of Lago di Misurina. From the car park, take path 115 eastwards following good signs towards 'Rifugio Fonda Savio'. After about an hour, and around 15 minutes before you reach Rifugio Fonda Savio, the path runs adjacent to Torre Wundt which is now clearly visible. Cross scree on a small climbers' path to reach the start of the route.

### Accommodation

Rifugio Fonda Savio is well located to access Torre Wundt, via ferrata *Merlone* and the trio of towers up at Forcella Diavolo - Torre Leo, Torre del Diavolo and Il Gobbo. The remote nature of the surrounding climbs makes the rifugio a popular overnight venue with climbing parties and a good point of reference for those looking to complete any of the above itineraries.

**3 Hasse-Brandler**

..... VIII+

A truly fantastic route that is slightly marred by the fact the first ascensionists drilled several artificial handholds. In spite of this it gives a complete climbing experience providing everything one could ask for (except perhaps solitude). It is a classic 'must-do' for anyone up to the challenge!

The route is semi-bolted but should not be considered a sport route. Take plenty of quickdraws for all the fixed gear (which is of varying quality). It is also worth taking a set of wires and cams to back up your protection.

Start beneath a rightwards-slanting corner, about 80m left of the start of the rising ramp to *Comici-Dimai*, and just right of where the white wall of the main face meets an area of black rock on the bottom right-hand corner of Cima Grande.

- 1) V+, 40m. Climb the initial short crack to enter the corner proper. Follow this before moving right into a second corner. Continue up this to a good stance on the top of a small pillar.
- 2) V+, 40m. Ignore the pitons above (they are part of *Saxon's Superdirettissima* - a rarely done route), instead make a rising traverse left over the flake just off the stance. Continue up a second flake and belay on the top, directly below a square-shaped roof.
- 3) VII+, 30m. Climb up to a small roof and overcome it, finishing slightly left at the top.
- 4) V+, 25m. Climb the ramp above, moving slightly right at first, before finishing left.
- 5) VII-, 30m. Climb direct up the wall and belay on the top of another small pillar.
- 6) VII, 30m. Climb the wall above, past a couple of hard moves leading slightly right, before heading back left along a shallow ramp. Belay on a good ledge.
- 7) VII-, 35m. Make a short horizontal traverse to the left - hard at first but becoming easier on pockets - until you reach a flake. Overcome this and follow the left-slanting crack to the belay.
- 8) IV+, 40m. Traverse left until a blank-looking section forces you to down climb slightly to continue to the traverse. Finish by aiming for the terrace beneath the overhanging corners of the crux pitches.
- 9) VIII-, 30m. Climb direct to arrive underneath the prominent line of roofs easily seen from the ground. Make a rising traverse right under these until you get to a hanging stance.
- 10) VIII, 30m. Continue on the same line following a wider overhanging crack, which can be jammed, or use crimps on the right.
- 11) VIII+, 30m. A stamina crack that is steeper than it looks provides the crux of the route. Climb it, or aid it on all the old pegs as desired.
- 12) VIII-, 30m. Climb initially right before going left over two athletic overhangs.
- 13) V+, 40m. Climb the corner above to some welcome easier ground beneath a yellow-looking wall. (If you're running late this is the most comfortable place to spend the night if you don't think you'll make the Ringband Terrace).
- 14) VI, 30m. Climb the yellow wall above via a shallow crack-corner until you pass a roof.
- 15) V, 40m. Continue up the steep crack above.
- 16) V, 60m. Follow the final prominent chimney which is often wet and exit onto the Ringband Terrace.

FA. Brandler, Low, Hasse, Lehne 1958