



Balticum 2012

Route report
Climbing category

Via delle Placche
D+, hardest pitch 5c/6a

Sergent wall
Orco valley, Italy

Team:
Kairi Kiik & Hendrik Proosa
Alpine Club Firn



General information

Route	Via delle Placche
Category, grade	D+, hardest pitch 5c/6a (French) pitch grades: 4a, 5c/6a, 5c, 5a, 4b, 4c, 4c
Length	250 m (we climbed ~150m, left out last pitches)
Number of pitches	7 (we climbed 4 and left out last easy pitches)
Characteristics	slabs and cracks on good gneiss
Location	Sergent wall, Orco valley, western Italy
Elevation	route base ~1200 m
Time spent on route	ascent 2 h, descent 30 min
Date of ascent	31.07.2011
Team members	Kairi Kiik & Hendrik Proosa (Alpine Club Firn, Estonia)

Location of Orco valley (Valle dell'Orco):



Route

First ascent by Lenzi, Vota and Vignazia in 1973. Route can be climbed in different variants and with the recent addition of some bolts on the slabs, it does not exactly follow the original route. Most of the route is on slabs, crux pitch has some interesting body-twisting moves in an awkward Z shaped crack.

Gear

We had one set of friends, nuts, a few tri-cams and two 60m ropes for descent. There are some bolts to protect the slabs and short crux pitch and belays are bolted.

Ascent and conditions

Start of the route is a bit grassy and follows slabs and diagonal cracks. Some bolts but rather far from each other. The most interesting part of the route is short second pitch which follows some blocks, big crack that goes deep into the wall and confusing moves along a Z shaped crack. A few bolts but it is better not to fall in some places. Third and fourth pitch are on slabs with diagonal and horizontal cracks. Nice climbing but not as interesting as Apparazione del Cristo Verde.



Route topo (from guidebook „Valle dell'Orco“ by Maurizio Oviglia). Via delle Placche is route number 11, we climbed to the point where it meets Apparazione del Cristo Verde which we had already climbed.



Slab climbing on the third pitch.



Our team :)