

Stiftungsfest 2019 at the Mischabelhütte

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The next pitch (5c) offers interesting crack climbing, but the distances between the bolts are very long. The climbing is exhausting both physically and mentally. I was really happy after reaching the belay station. A 6a+ slab was again challenging. The last pitch was only 5a, but I was tired and needed much more time than usual to get to the top. From the top we had a perfect view to Fiamma. It would have been a piece of cake to get there. However, from what we knew, the Fiamma is quite a mental challenge: only 5c, but slabby and mandatory climbing. We didn't feel good enough for that on this day. It was one of the hottest days of the summer with temperatures approaching more than 30 degrees Celsius down in the valley. We also had a long return trip to Zurich ahead of us. Finally, we decided to skip the Fiamma, descend and take the cable car down.

The good thing is that there are so many options for climbing that we can come back any time, climb other routes – including the

Fiamma – if we feel prepared for it. As I read on a Bergell website: “Every climber has to be on the top of Fiamma at some point in his life”. In the meantime, there is still enough room to improve our confidence on granite slabs.

Florian Seliger

Via del Gipeto, 6a, 15 pitches: Very nice and long route with solid rock, bolted, but less so in easy sections, sometimes long run-outs. Some smaller and medium camalots might be helpful. The scrambling parts are easy, but took us more time than expected.

Fiamma Via Süd, 6a+, 8 pitches (without Fiamma): Can be used as a direct access to climb the Fiamma; perhaps less crowded than the routes that are closer to the cable car. Interesting and varied climbing. For us, the crux pitches were the first 5c (crack climbing, long run-outs) and the 6a+ (merciless slab climbing). Camalots are helpful in some pitches.

STIFTUNGSFEST 2019 AT THE MISCHABELHÜTTE

As by tradition, the AACZ Huttli met at the Mischabelhütte for the Stiftungsfest 2019. As always, it was a friendly a cheerful event, greatly hosted by Maria and her team. Thanks again! We had the entire “old dorm” for ourselves, which had a nice feeling of traveling back in time: dark, a slight smell of mold, squeaky beds, yet a warm atmosphere.

The touring was somewhat unusual. No team climbed Nadelhorn this year (maybe

everybody went too many times already?). The upper part of the east ridge of Lenzspitze had fallen off earlier in the season and was not yet practicable, so that was no option either (the weather forecast would not have allowed it anyway). Instead, several teams did the traverse from Bordierhütte via Balfrin and Gross Bigerhorn. Noémie, Seth and I climbed up to the Bordierhütte on Friday. The path leading to the hut had been remade. Besides a few (extremely cute)

black sheep, we had the valley for us alone, which was pretty nice! From the Bordier hut, the path up to Gross Bigerhorn was clearly marked and easy to follow. There were some sketchy slopes along the traverse to Balfrin (not enough snow and ice left by the end of summer...) but nothing crazy. All the way up to Balfrin, we enjoyed very nice views towards the Nadelgrat. The route followed the south ridge of Balfrin down to the Riedgletscher. We skipped the Ulrichshorn and crossed straight to Windjoch and from there followed the main route (almost a highway!) to the Mischabelhütte. Overall, this made a nice and easy tour (PD/PD+?) which was a perfect fit for our mood of the

day. We arrived at the hut late in the morning and lazily waited for the rest of the Huttli. Noémie claimed I slept all afternoon, but there is no proof of that...

On Sunday, a couple of teams did the same traverse the other way around, while we enjoyed the sun before climbing down towards Saas-Fee. We tried (and failed) to follow the old path, which is “much nicer than the new via ferrata and perfectly safe now” according to the senior folks of the club. So that makes at least one pretext to come back next time...

Romain Jacob

view from the hut (photo Noémie Frezel Jacob)

