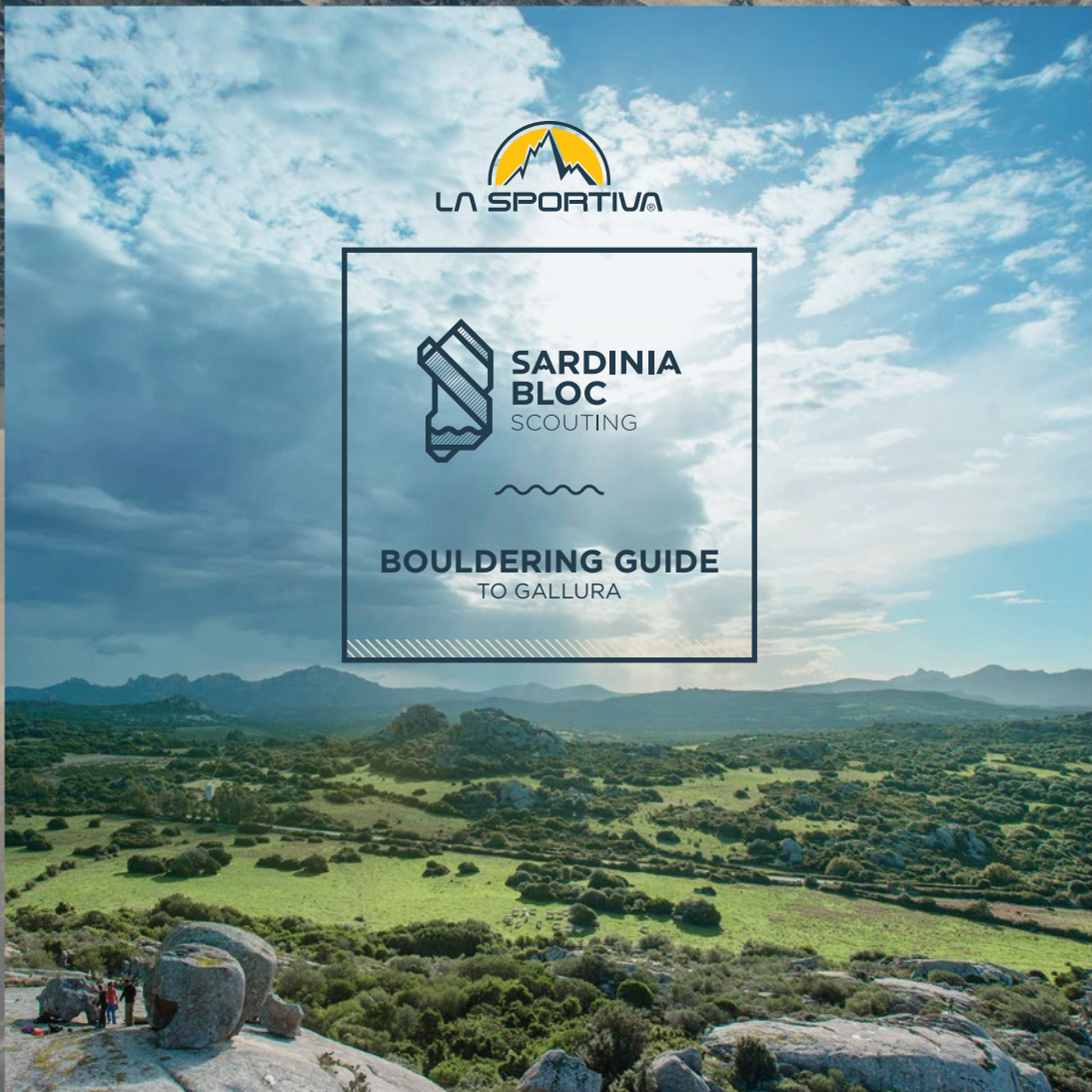




**SARDINIA
BLOC**
SCOUTING



BOULDERING GUIDE
TO GALLURA





PH © R. FÉLDERER 2013

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SARDINIA
BLOC
SCOUTING



SARDINIA BLOC SCOUTING

Sardinia is not only a magical land but also a climber's paradise with lots of rock, the majority of which is still unexplored. In the collective imagination the region is a sea of limestone, but in fact, it's the amount of granite that most people find most surprising. **Gallura**, in the north of the island, is **the Sardinian granite region**. The land is almost completely dotted with climbing boulders: a haven of boulders haphazardly strewn about in an incredibly charming and beautiful setting. This sparked **La Sportiva's idea** to bring their **Ambassadors** to Gallura. These are some of the strongest boulder climbers in the world, who armed with brushes and good skins, begun to **explore this vast area of boulders**. The aim was to both give something to the island in terms of climbing culture, encouraging the development of a "vertical attendance" people climbing blocks in the area. Leading this special operation was **Pietro Dal Pra**, the expert of the area and historically tied to the land of Sardinia, assisted by the locals Masini, Marratzu and Soddu. At his side were **Nalle Hukkataival** and his trusted companion **Anthony Gullsten**, along with the sparkling **Cody Roth**, the Italians **Michele Caminati** and **Silvio Reffo**, the guru of our national boulders **Marzio Nardi**, the super-couple **Pearson-Ciavaldini** and the young sensation **Fabian Buhl**.

In the next pages you will find our **guide to the boulders we cleaned and climbed**. With the explicit invitation to go there and find your own new boulders, continuing what La Sportiva has only begun...





MAP
LEGEND

ROAD MAP

- road
- state road
- area
- boulder area
- car park
- farmhouse
- airport
- port

BOULDER AREA

- boulder
- path
- car park

BOULDER

- warning!
- top
- line
- so, so
- nice
- very nice
- beautiful



SARDINIA GALLURA



In recent years, climbing destinations in the Mediterranean are increasingly sought after as the interest in bouldering continues to spread. Historically climbing on the islands of the “Mare Nostrum” is associated with limestone, the privileged terrain for climbing with ropes and carabiners, even if the fabulous Mediterranean does not only offer this type of stone. Perhaps only the island of Corsica is recognized as granite, associated with an idea of climbing big walls.

For many years **Sardinia** has been the destination for limestone climbers.

However, **most of the rock on the island is in fact granite**. Granite is not to be found on the big walls but on the many stones of all shapes and sizes scattered all over the island. To the joy of climbers, **Gallura** on the Northern part of the island is literally full of boulders.

The largest city is **Olbia**, the ideal arrival point to reach the places object of our trip. Olbia is served by an **airport** and a **port** and can be reached by a number of different airlines and ships. **From here in an hour's drive, you can reach all the spots described in the guide**. Ideal stop off points are the Lu Branu farmhouse for the **Arzachena** sectors and the La Cerra farmhouse for the Monte Pulchiano sectors in the territory of **Tempio Pausania**. Climbing aside Sardinia is a notoriously beautiful land, rich in both history and culture, making a visit there an experience not to be missed. Enjoy your climbing and bon appetit!



Pietro Dal Pra





Three beautiful lines from the left
On the right of line C - easy flat wall.

A 6c - sit start

B 6a - sit start

C 4+

BOULDER 1



BOULDER 2

Warm-up boulder with an abundance of climbing.



BOULDER 3



A super “octopus-shaped stone” resting on the base of granite with beautiful lines and vertical flares and a project.



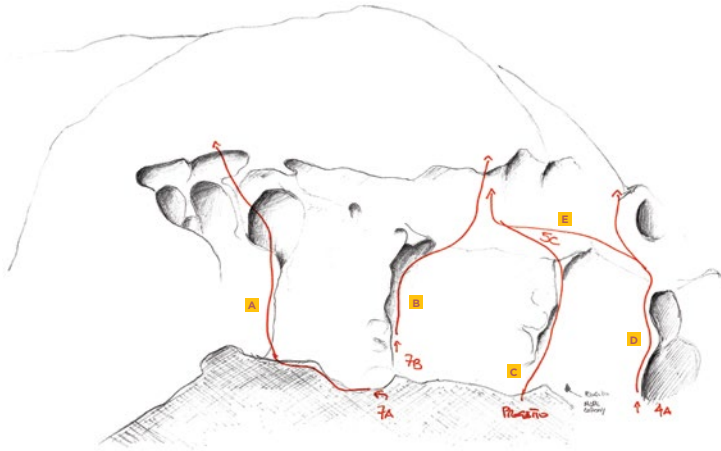
A 7a

B 7b

C Project

D 4a

E 5c



BOULDER 4 “Hope”



A big boulder with a number of lines which takes its name from an inscription on the south side. Four lines on the south side and one on the north. Highball with a difficult start but with a high easy exit.

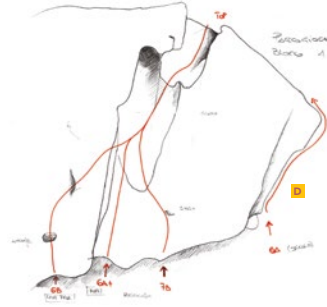
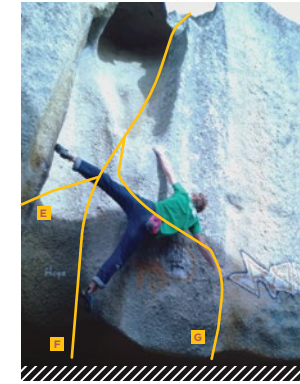
A 6b

B 6a+

C 7b

D 6a - edge

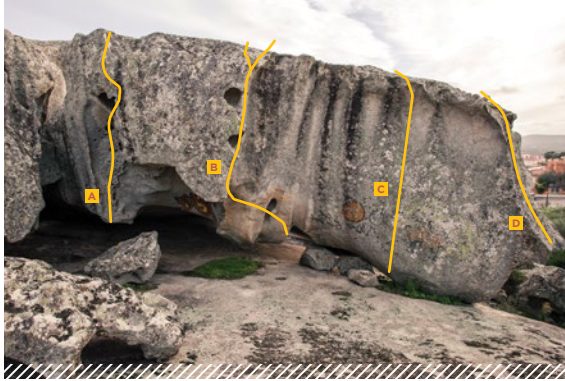
SOUTH



BOULDER 4 NORTH



Two great physical lines on the left and two easier flat walls on the right. On the left of the A line is the **BOULDER 5**, with a 6a+ line (6b sit start).



A 6a - big holes

B 6b+ - sit start

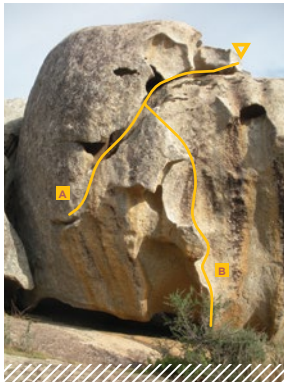
C 6a - concave wall

D 4 - edge

BOULDER 6



A boulder with two lines: the one on the right is easy and athletic.



A 6b

B 5c - edge

BOULDER 7 "La prua"



A beautiful corner that has been cleaned. Tried but not climbed.

A Project



BOULDER 8

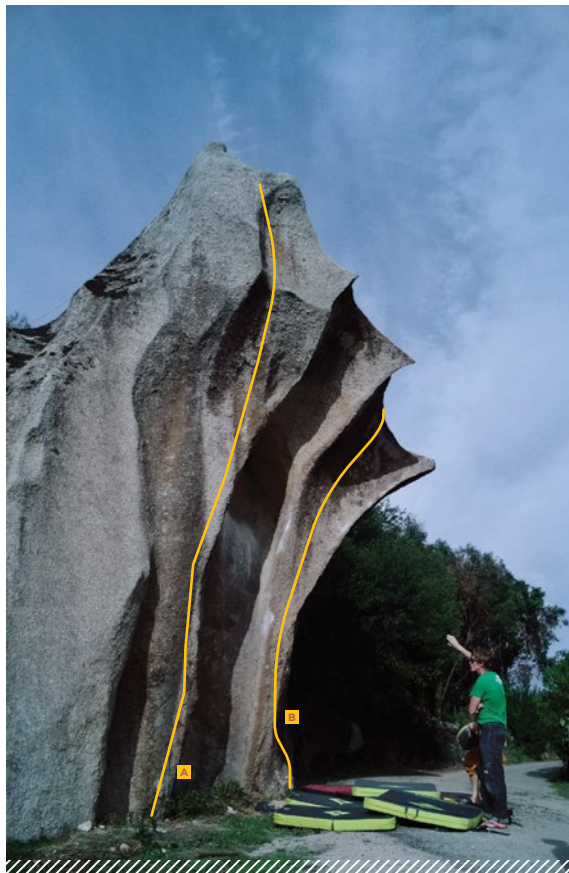


An amazing highball climb on vertical cane rod granite. On the right, an incredible 7b with a jump right to the edge. A project is being attempted on the left.

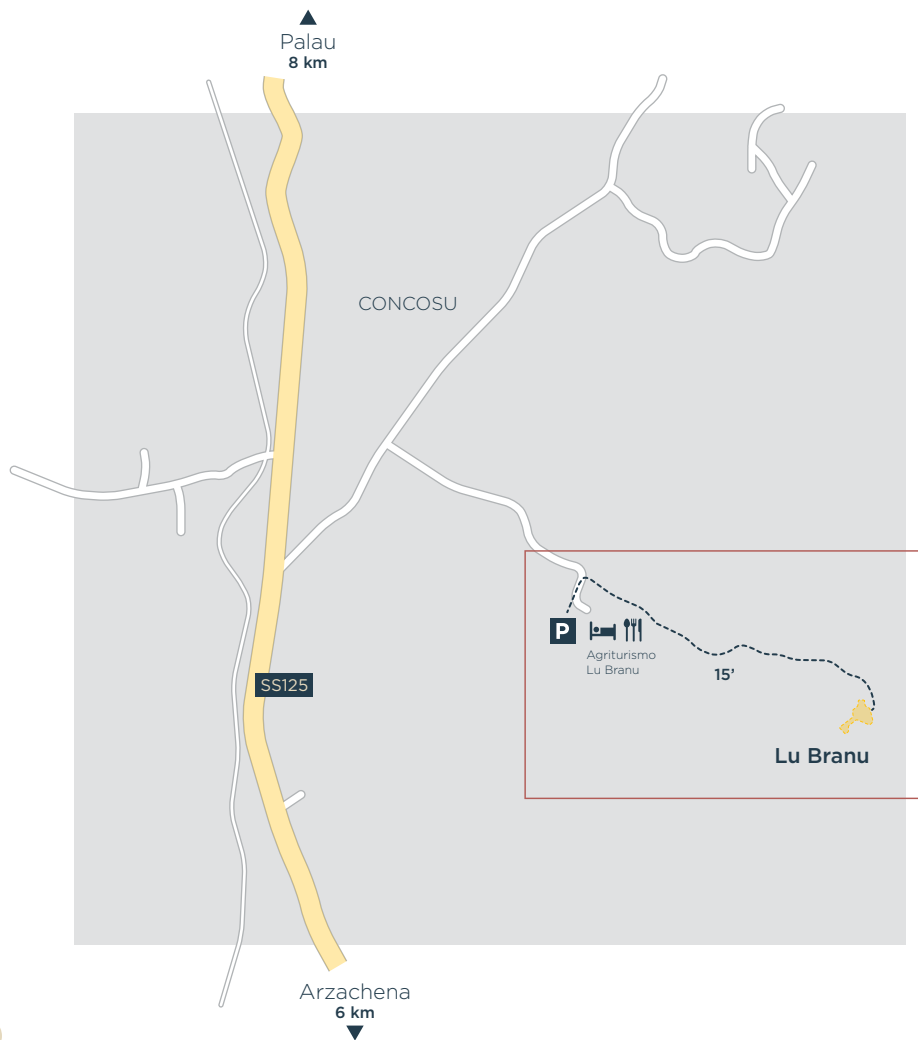
⚠ Warning: more crash pads required.

A Project

B 7b



N. HUKKATAIVAL - PH © K. DELL'ORTO 2013



ARZACHENA LU BRANU



A super area located along the ride of boulders ranging from Arzachena to Palau **in the private grounds of the Branu Lu farmhouse** which offers great potential for further sectors. This area features a large sixty degrees panel furrowed in the middle of a off wids crack of rare beauty clearly visible from the road that leads to the farm. At the base of the wall there is a miraculously swinging rock. **This area is home to the toughests climb in Sardinia Bloc Scouting**, an 8a+ climbed by the Finnish Nalle Hukkataival.

ACCESS

From Olbia take the **SS125** towards Palau. At km 348, shortly after passing the town of Arzachena, turn right following the signs for the **Lu Branu farmhouse**.

LU BRANU ACCESS TO THE AREA



Once you have parked the car, the trail starts in front of the house with boarding rooms, passing close to an old tennis court. It then crosses two hilly meadows towards NE. The meadows end in view of the large boulder on the crack, here the trail climbs up on the left side of the small valley (where the path enters the woods) as the vegetation makes it impossible to reach at the base.

From the car to the boulders is about 15 minutes on foot. Here too climbers have the possibility of finding, cleaning and climbing all types of boulders of all types of difficulties.

LU BRANU ⓘ

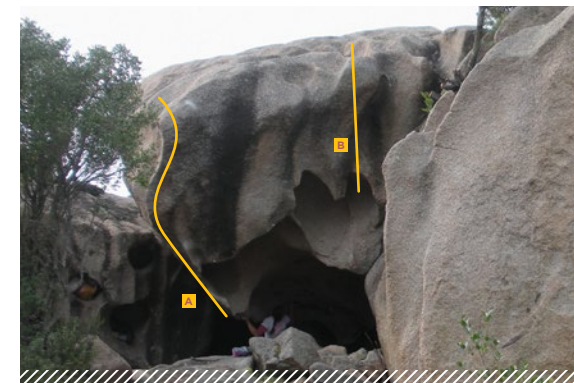


A super cave with the hardest block in the area, climbed by Nalle Hukkataival, which could also present a sit start (project)

A 8a+

B 6a+

BOULDER 1



BOULDER 2



A nice, vertical wall climbed only on the left side. Highball project on the right.

A 6a+

B Project

BOULDER 3



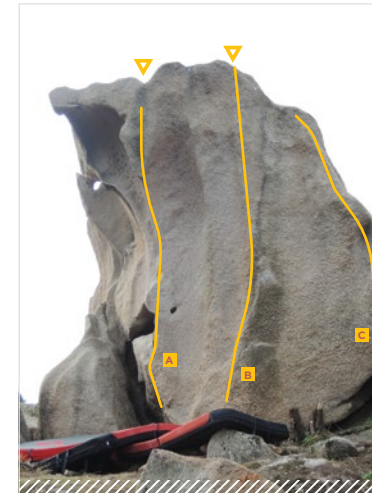
One move on a sloppy “to gaston”.

A 6a+



PH © M. CAMINATI 2013

BOULDER 4



NORTH

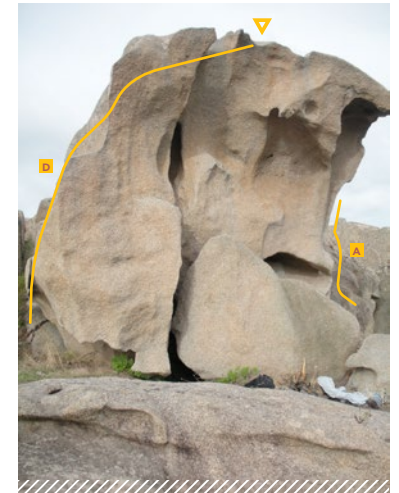
Angular shaped highball. On the SOUTH wall there is the possibility of numerous accents.

A 6b+/6c

B 6c

C 5a

D 5a/5b



SOUTH





BOULDER 5 “Muro della fessura”

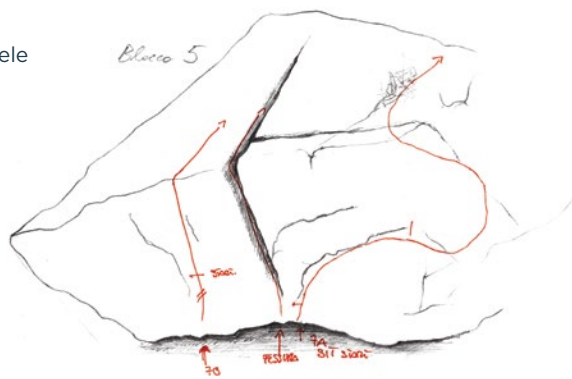


An extraordinary, almost vertical panel featuring central off wid's climbed by Michele Caminati. Lines on the right and left of the crack have been climbed but two harder projects are on the left.

A 7b

B 7a - crack

C 7a - sit start



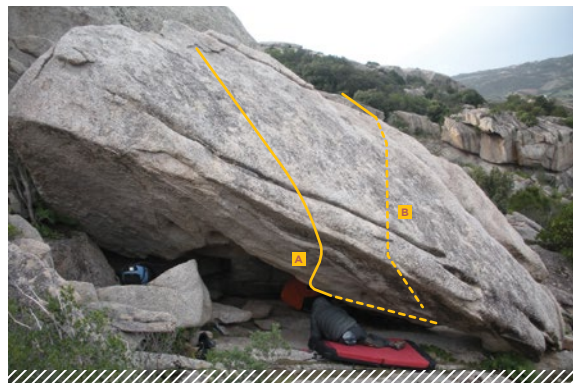
Line of several metres on horizontal holes a few inches from the ground with the exit on flares and notches.

A 6c+

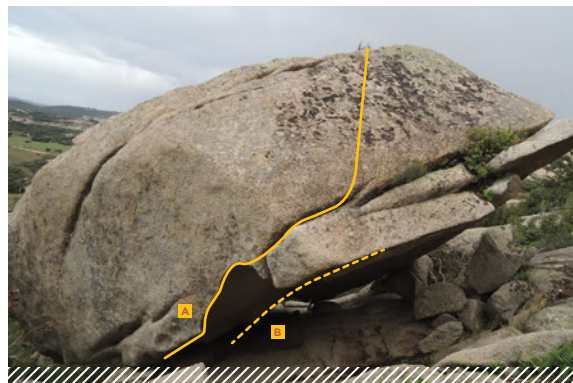
B 6a



BOULDER 6 “Strapiombo Caroline”



BOULDER 7 “Big Project”



Just below Caroline's overhang is a boulder with a super project. On the left a nice 6b sit start on the edge to be pinched and which exits on a blade on the top of the block.

A 6b+

B Project

An easy warm-up block along a chimney. On the right is boulder number 3 which presents an easy grade 4 wall.

A 5b

BOULDER 8



A beautiful flat wall, with an extremely demanding start, then it is a marvellous climb to the crest of the “dinosaur”.

A 6c

B 5b

BOULDER 9 “Cresta dinosauro”



An enormous boulder with lots of projects and lead lines that are still to be invented. On the right marvellous but extremely high lines, best to be tried initially with a top rope. The hardest line has been climbed only by Anthony Gullsten: Starting from the overhang with big holes on the right, traverses then on the left till the crack and comes out on the furiously flat wall.

A 5a

B 6c

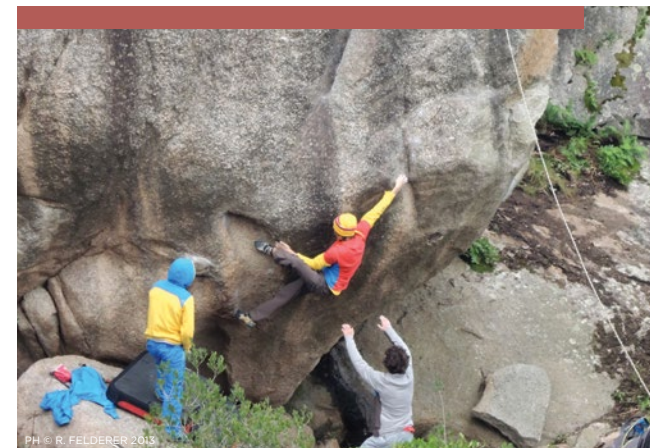
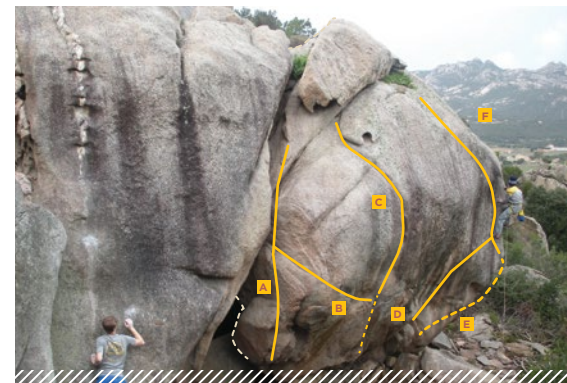
C Project

D Project

E 7b+

F Project

BOULDER 10 “Sasso degli highball”





TEMPIO PAUSANIA LA CERRA



The sector is only a few metres from the **La Cerra farmhouse**, the stop off point for the climb to **Monte Pulchiana** in the Tempio Pausania area. The boulders are clean and very nice with finer grains compared to other areas in Gallura. The owner of the farmhouse, Alberto Pesenti, has a profound knowledge of the area and apart from giving advice as to possible climbs he could also satisfy your curiosity relating to the region in general and not only to the world of climbing.

ACCESS

From Olbia take the **SS127** towards Tempio Pausania. After a few kilometres take the **SP10** to **Luogosanto**. Reach the **SS133**, turn left and proceed along the street. After 1 km turn right towards La Cerra farmhouse. The boulders are within a five minute walk from the farm on the other side of the road.





LA CERRA

ACCESS TO THE AREA



From the farmhouse return on foot along the access road and turn left on the gravel path.

Along the path leading to the La Cerra area you will find numerous boulders that have been cleaned but not yet climbed.





BOULDER 1 “La Balena”



Four short but beautiful lines. You can sit start the C line graded 7b+

A 6a

B 6b+

C 7a

D 5



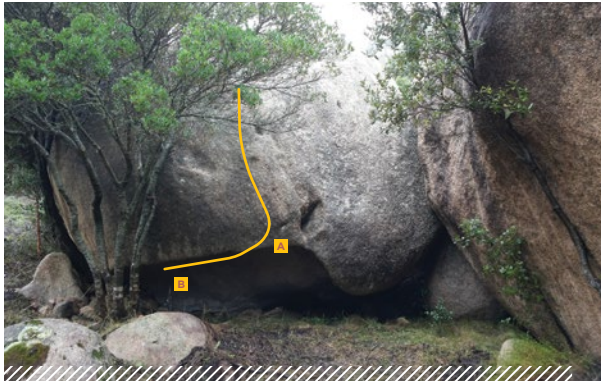
BOULDER 2



One step in a starting cave: nice!

A 6a+

B 6c+ - sit start



PH © R. FELDERER 2013

BOULDER 3

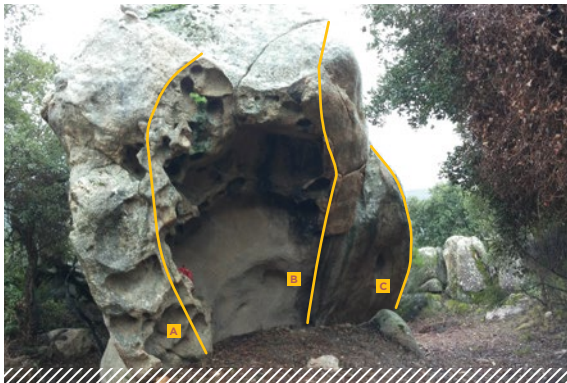


An enormous boulder with numerous lines.

A 5

B 7a

C 6c+



Overhang with two 6c lines easily visible from the trail. Other possible lines on the opposite side.

A 6c

B 6c

BOULDER 4



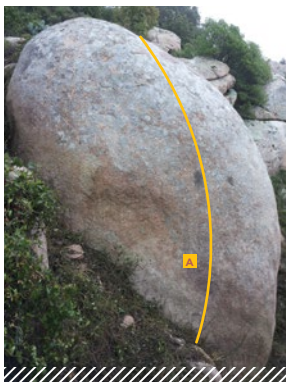
Not climbed, a nice problem close to the boulder 1, “La Balena”.

BOULDER 5



An amazing flat wall on a large egg. A very technical climb.

A 6c+ - flat



BOULDER 6 “Humpty Dumpty”



A vertical wall with an easy line but given the height this climb becomes quite dangerous.

! More crash-pads are recommended!
Possible lines on the other side.

A 5c

BOULDER 7 “Placca di Faby”



BOULDER 9 “Sasso degli highball”

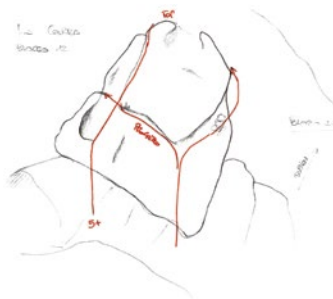


A nice boulder with a great 5+ warm up and two exciting projects still to climb.

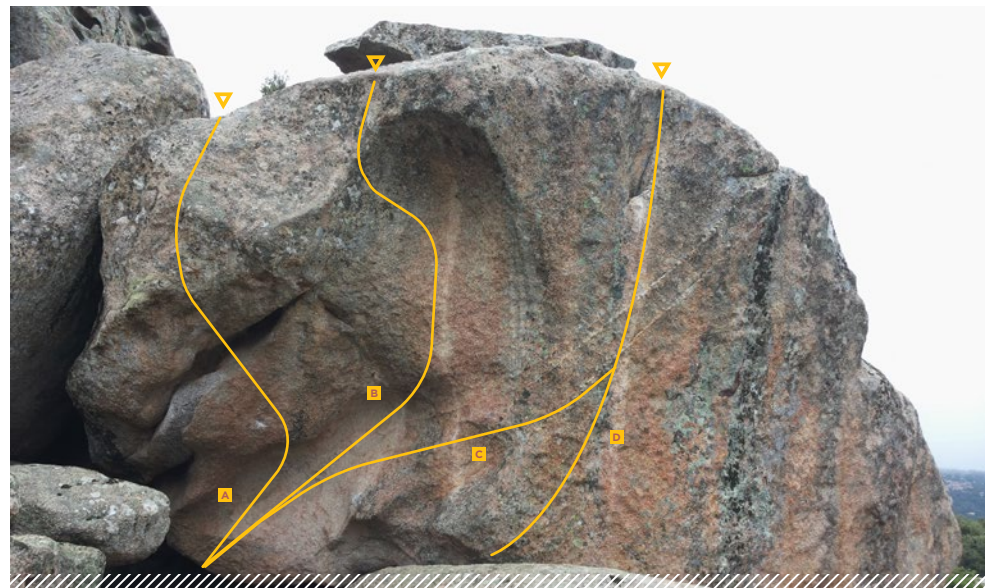
A 5+

B Project

C Project



BOULDER 8 “Blocco di Nalle”



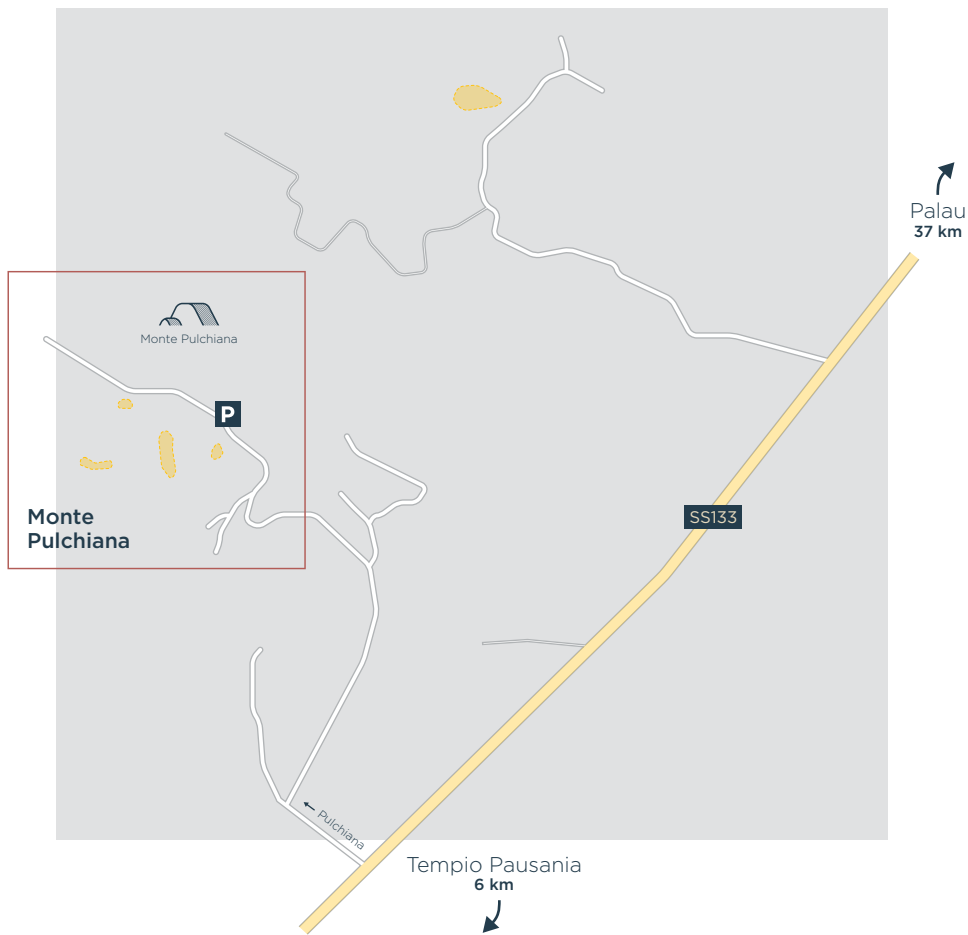
A 7a+

B 7a+

C 7c

D 7a+

Boulder cleaned by Nalle Hukkataival before clearing the 7c line through the entire wall. There are three other 7a+ lines.



TEMPIO PAUSANIA MONTE PULCHIANA



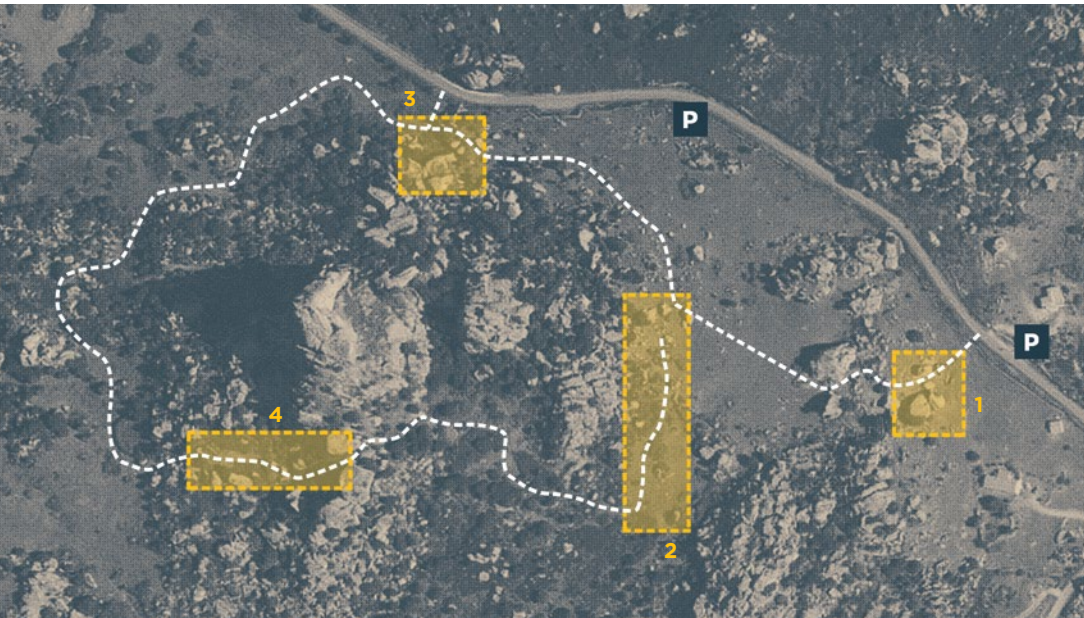
Definitely the most beautiful place in the area and literally full of rocks even though there are few clean ones compared to the immense potential for the area. **There are actually four inter-related areas around a characteristic spire of granite to the west of Mount Pulchiana** (on the spire James Pearson and Caroline Ciavaldini have also opened an easy and beautiful multi-pitch route entirely “cleaned”). The areas are located on private land to which access is allowed, but courteous behaviour is required at all times. This place is simply magical as is the climbing, the boulders are easily identifiable and accessible.

ACCESS

Take the State road **SS127** towards Tempio and in proximity of Luras take the road to **Luogosanto (SP10)**. Once on the **SS133** turn left and continue for about 1 km until you reach the entrance to the farmhouse (**La Cerra**) on the right. A few more kilometres and a paved road with no signage on the right leads to Monte Pulchiana. At this point you can reach Palau or Arzachena on the SS133 passing through Luogosanto. From here after a short climb, you can park on the right in view of the unmistakable “**Smurfs’ house**”. On the right Monte Pulchiana, on the left passing a stone wall you reach the sector on the field or pass an old gate if you come from the “Grottini” Area.



MONTE PULCHIANA ACCESS TO THE AREAS



- 1 Prato SX
- 2 Prato DX
- 3 Grottini
- 4 Nuraghe

PRATO SX ⓘ

SMURFS' HOUSE

FOUNTAIN

ACCESS

P

Prato DX

BOULDER 1

Four beautiful lines on all four sides. The most beautiful line is the NORTH wall (7a+).

A 7a+

B 6b - edge

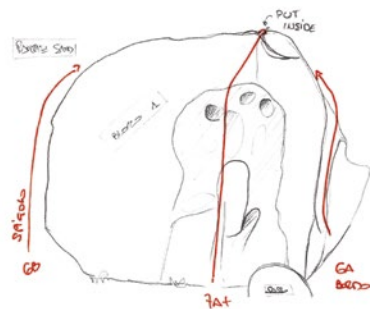
C 7a+

D 6a - edge

NORTH



SOUTH





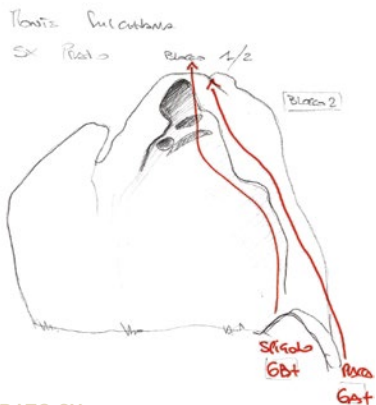
BOULDER 2



Grippy flat wall with a nice edge on the left.

A 6b+ - edge

B 6a+ - flat



BOULDER 3 "3 grappini"



A supreme highball, the hardest block in Pulchiana climbed only by Nalle Hukkataival.

A 8a



PRATO DX ⓘ

Grottini

2

1

Prato SX

Nuraghe

4

3

Boulder 1 "Grottino fessurato"

SUD



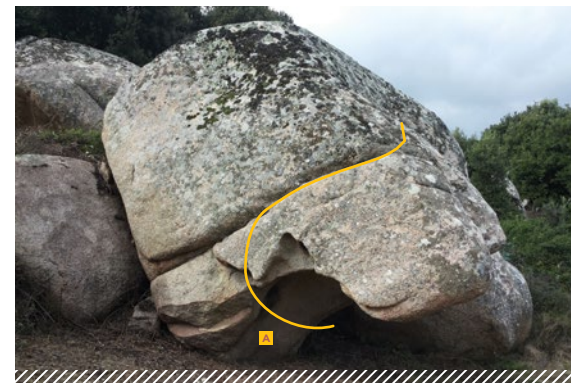
Three beautiful lines with a really special central crack.

A 5+

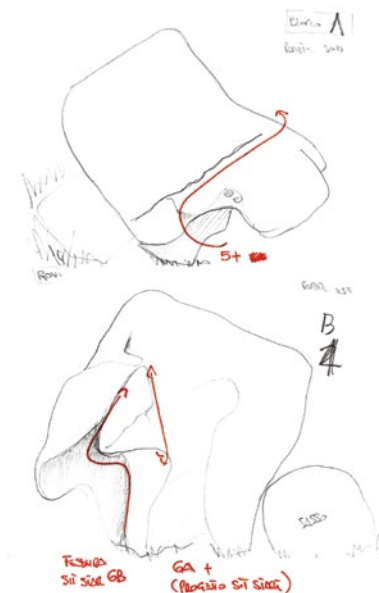
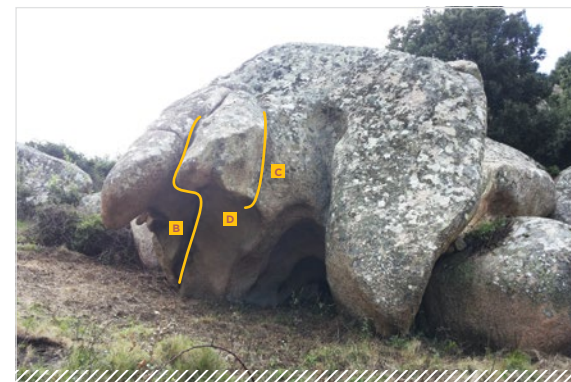
B 6b - crack

C 6a+

D Project - sit start



EST



A supreme vertical wall on furious crimps.

A 7c

Where the meadow becomes flat an enormous, isolated “fin” seems to bend in the wind and offers some wonderful lines with cleaner holds than other boulders in the area. Four problems have already been climbed.

A 6c

B 6c+

C 6b+

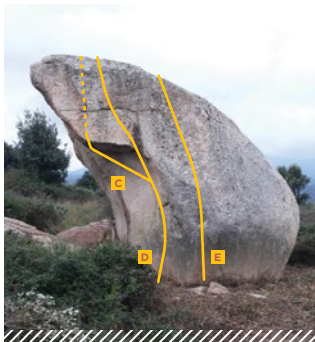
D 6a+

E 5b - descent

BOULDER 2 “Il muro”



BOULDER 3 “La Pinna”



BOULDER 4 “Il Diamante”



A 6b

Above the meadow, on the granite ridge, you cannot help but notice a perfectly triangular stone, in a magnificent location. Both sides have been cleaned but only the south face has been climbed.

! Be careful on landing, there is a granite crack to be covered with branches and crash-pads.

Descent on the same line of ascent.

GROTTINI



Nice edge (6a+) before entering the cave where there are numerous warm up lines on tafoni.

A 6a+ - see boulder 2 photo

B Tafoni - different lines

C 6b - capsizing

D 7a - edge

A nice sit start before entering the cave which is formed by this boulder and boulder number 1. Inside the cave the angle is one of the best lines in the area: high, bold and elegant, has not yet been tried.

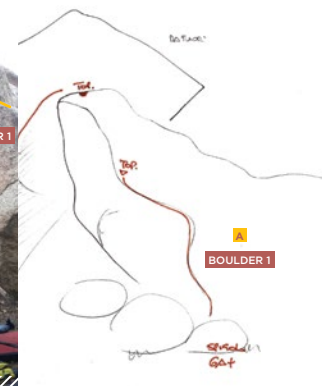
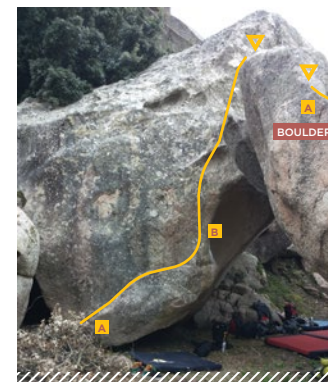
A 6c+ - sit start

B 6a+

BOULDER 1



BOULDER 2



Sit start for a nice overhang on holes.

A 6a+ - sit start

BOULDER 3



Three super lines: the central one has already been climbed by Mauro Calibani. On the right a super two hand jump by Nalle Hukkataival, a rare gem. Attached to the Calibani stone, in front of the "leap of Nalle", a nice flat wall 5b.

A 7b+

B 7b+ - Calibani's line

C 7c+ - leap start

D 5c - flat

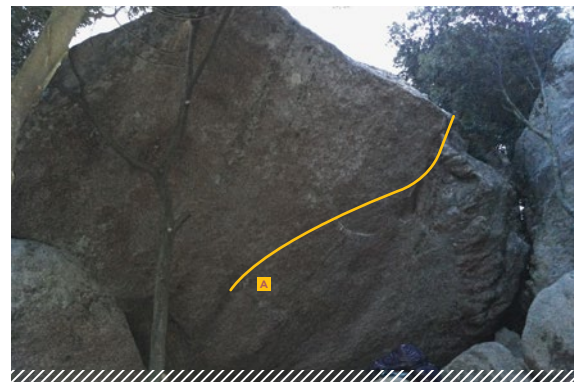
BOULDER 4/5



45° blackboard with positive holds...and big launches!

A 6c

BOULDER 6 "Blocco James"



NURAGHE ⓘ



Easy steps on abnormal forms of granite.

A 5c - sit start



BOULDER 1 “Blocco di Franz”



BOULDER 2 “Le fessure”

Obvious almost resting cracks.



An enormous boulder with various lines and projects. This boulder takes its name from the super jump on the NORTH side. For the descent route throw a rope over a stone and fix it to the base of the SOUTH side from left to right: flat wall 6b, oblique crack 6a+ and 6c. **!** Be careful on all lines!

A Project

B 7c - stand and big leap

C 8a - sit start

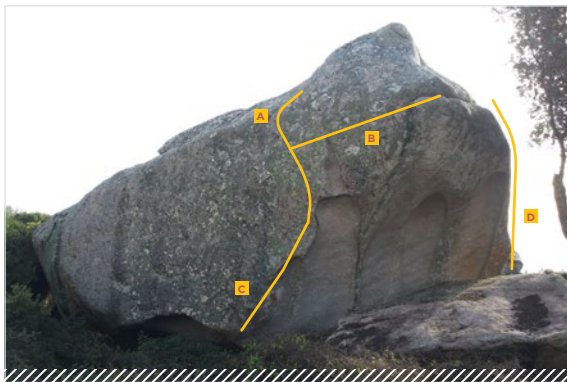
D 6a - edge

A nice flat wall with a project on the edge.

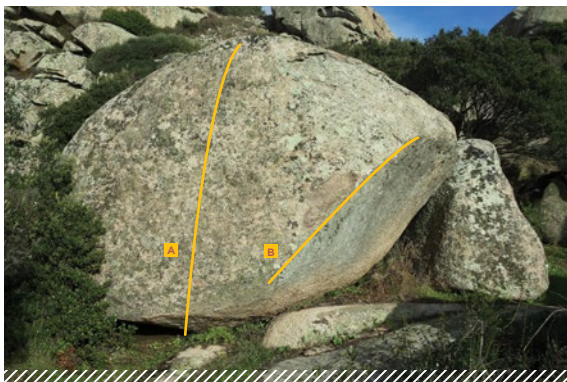
A 6a+

B Project - edge

BOULDER 3 “Lancio di James”



BOULDER 4 “La palla di Caroline”



BOULDER 5 “Blocco del muretto”

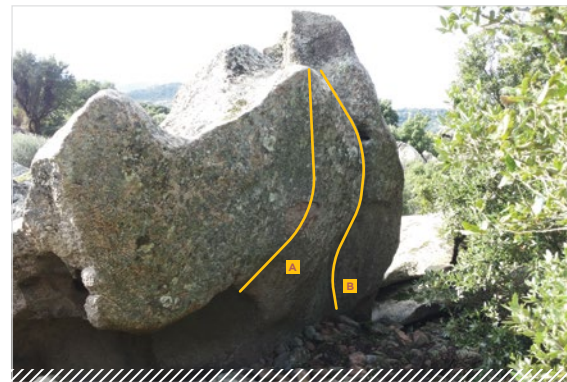
A boulder offering three technical lines which have already been climbed with further problems still to climb.

A 6c+

B Project

C 6b

NORTH



SOUTH





BOULDER 6 "Blocco delle guglie"



NORTH/EAST

A huge block with good warm up lines on the NORTH east side, a nice edge and a great crack. Descent climbing on the right. On the EAST side numerous easy climbs allow great warm up.



EAST

A 5 - crack

B 6c - edge

C 6c - parkour style run-up



M. CAMINATI BOULDER 6 / RH © K. DELL'ORTO 2013

More overhang cracks that start from a nice granite terrace.

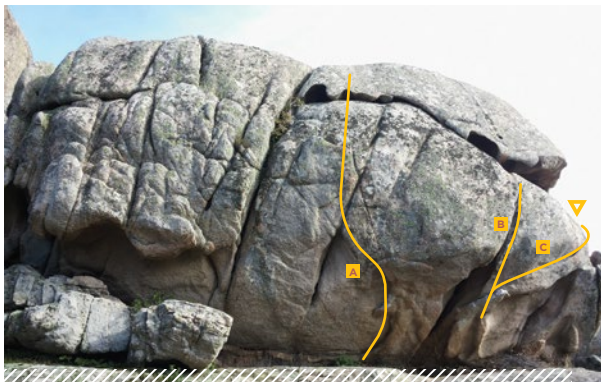
A 6c

B 6c+ - sit start

C 5c



BOULDER 7 “Blocco delle fessure”



C. ROTH - PH. K. DELL'ORTO 2013



BOULDER 8 “La fessura”



A truley amazing trad line of about ten metres tested but not yet climbed. Friends required!

A Project



A huge boulder in the upper part of the sector. Cody Roth tried a sit project on the edge but which he then completed with a stand start.

A 7b



BOULDER 9 “Blocco di Cody”





EXTRA



LA FESSURA (THE CRACK)

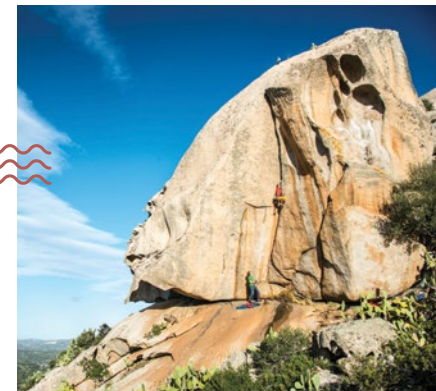
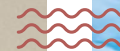
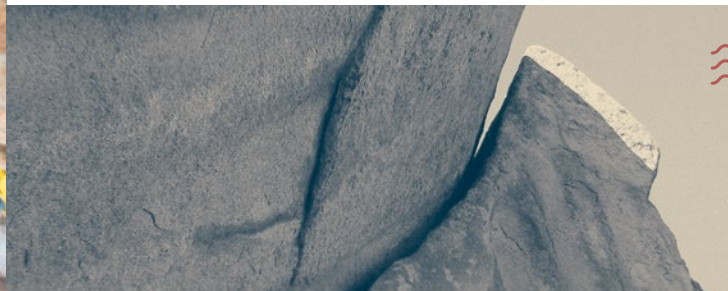
MONTE MAZZOLU

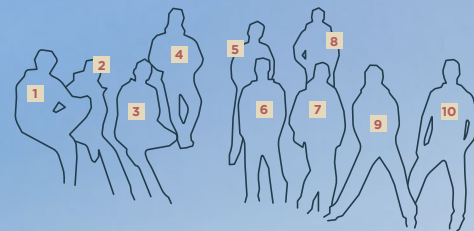


On the **SP115** leading to Bassacutena, 5-6 kilometres from the town of Arzachena and just before reaching **Lu Pilastru**, on the right side of the road you notice a large mass of scattered granite. **On the left of the mountain there is a crack** which has been cleaned and climbed alongside some other boulders; nothing compares however to the enormous potential offered by this area.

ACCESS

You can park your car on the side of the road, then climb over a gate and access the lawn. You follow the cairns leading to the top of **Monte Mazzolu**, at the base of which there are some beautiful boulders.





- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | ANTHONY GULLSTEN | 6 | NALLE HUKKATAIVAL |
| 2 | SILVIO REFFO | 7 | MICHELE CAMINATI |
| 3 | PIETRO DAL PRA | 8 | MARZIO NARDI |
| 4 | CODY ROTH | 9 | CAROLINE CIAVALDINI |
| 5 | FABIAN BUHL | 10 | JAMES PEARSON |

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By Pietro Porro & Richard Felderer



BOULDERS PHOTOS

La Sportiva S.p.A.

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