

collana **roccia**d'autore

5

# Mid grade trad rock western dolomites **2**

*Emiliano Loszi*



## ● INTRODUCTION

Just two years after publication of the first edition it was already time for a second. This new edition has changed in look and organization while maintaining its original, well received characteristics.

The availability of substantial new material and the desire to integrate the inevitable corrections, some purely editorial, others (thankfully few) involving clarifications and modifications to the route descriptions, led to the decision not to run a simple reprint. Bearing in mind that many “old” readers only recently purchased the first edition, it was decided to sub-divide the new edition into two volumes, “Western Dolomites (Volume 1)” and “Western Dolomites (Volume 2)”, the first being a corrected reprint of the previous edition, and this second volume including all the new descriptions which, thanks also to the help of our generous collaborators, had been collected in the period from publication of the first edition (2009) to the present. This means that our established “mid-grade” readers can acquire all the new material without having to buy both books. Obviously, new readers (and virtually all readers of the English editions) are unaffected in this way. The only resulting “oddity” is that both volumes cover exactly the same geographic area.

Furthermore, a small number of descriptions from the original edition were, for various reasons, significantly changed and consequently these have been “moved” to the present Volume 2 of the new edition where they completely replace the original descriptions. Again this is irrelevant for the English editions.

Without going into unnecessary details, it is noted that the characteristics of the guide, which most readers appear to like, remain the same. Many thanks to all the friends who collaborated in the realization of this second volume, resulting in the addition of a few slightly more difficult routes, and in a few new areas, suitable for “mid-graders” who occasionally enjoy something a bit more demanding. As usual, there is a lot of additional material at the website [www.quartogrado.com](http://www.quartogrado.com), where any corrections (hopefully few) will also be published.

All possible care was taken so that this second edition is useful both to those already in possession of the first edition and new readers. All the routes described were climbed in person by the author or our various collaborators.

Wishing you all a good read and good climbing.

Emiliano Zorzi

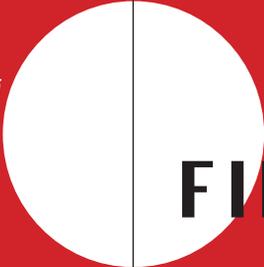
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## PALE DI SAN MARTINO

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024 • Cima Pradidali,  
Combination of *Via Soldà and Via Zonta*  
025 • Torre Pradidali, *Via Franceschini*  
026 • Campanile Pradidali, *Via Del Vecchio*  
027 • Cima Val di Roda, *Via Klose*  
028 • Corno Smith, *E Face*  
029 • Torre Bettega, *Via Fabbro-Bussi*  
030 • Campanile Adele, *Via Zagonel*  
031 • Cima Wilma, *Via Castiglioni-Detassis*  
032 • Cima Canali, *Fessura Buhl*  
033 • Pilastro Sud di Cima Fradusta, *Via Nel Ricordo*  
034 • Figlia Piccola della Fradusta, *Via Magica Bianca*  
035 • Anticima Sud-Est di Punta Centovie,  
*Via Ad Occhi Chiusi*  
036 • Pala dei Colombi, *Via Traverso d'Autunno*  
037 • Cima dei Lastei, *Via Wiessner-Simon*  
038 • Cima dei Lastei, *Via Zagonel-Saxl*  
039 • Campanile del Centenario, *Via del Centenario*  
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044 • Cima del Coro, *Diedro Wiessner*  
045 • Cima del Coro, *Via Franceschini-Bianchini*  
046 • Terza Torre dei Vani Alti, *Via degli Argonauti*  
047 • Pala del Rifugio, *Via Frisch-Corradini*  
048 • Pala del Rifugio, *Via Gogna*  
049 • Dente del Rifugio Treviso, *Fessura Franceschini*  
050 • Dente del Rifugio Treviso, *Via Massarotto*  
051 • Cima d'Oltro, *Via Castiglioni-Detassis*



**FIVE**



Describing the Pale means discussing an immense elaborate rock landscape, comprising an exceptional diversity of land forms, each one striking in its own way. A world out of time and in the author's opinion the most beautiful Dolomite group not only for traditional climbing, but also just for walking and via ferratas.

The extensive northern chain includes the main summits: Vezzana, Bureloni, Focobon, and the extremely famous Cimon della Pala. All these peaks exceed 3000 m and present an extreme environment, always demanding for the length of the routes, approaches, and descents, and for the less than perfect rock. The access points for this sector are Passo Rolle and Falcade, in addition to San Martino di Castrozza, thanks to the Col Verde and Rosetta cable cars, useful for climbing the Cimon.

The central node of the group is Passo della Rosetta, with the San Martino cable car arriving just above, at one of the most famous huts of the group, the Pedrotti.

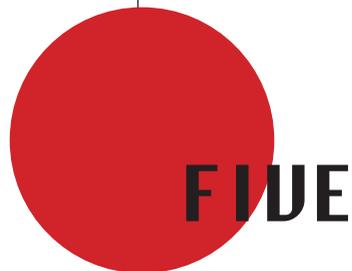
Beyond the pass extends the great Altipiano delle Pale [plateaux] at a height of 2500 m, an ancient underwater lagoon occupying the entire central zone of the group. It is an almost lunar expanse of rocky dunes and desolate valleys.

The best area from a climbing perspective extends southwards. These gorgeous peaks boast a rock of quality and conformation that is difficult to match in other parts of the Dolomites. A world of climbing over rock that is always sculpted and covered in holds, even in the steepest sections, with routes to suit all tastes and standards, short or long, easy or difficult. However, these are climbs that always require experience and commitment, for the approaches that are nearly always long, for the descents which are never simple and often demanding in themselves, which makes a hard day of every ascent.

It is difficult to choose the most beautiful peak or route from among the Cima della Madonna, Pala di San Martino, Cima Canali and all their satellites. The support bases are the very nice Rifugio Pradidali and Rifugio Velo.

A little further east is the Dolomitic sanctuary of Val Canali, with Cima Lastei, Pala del Rifugio, Sass de Ortiga, Cima del Coro, and the small Dente and Punta della Disperazione satellites crowning the zone of the Rifugio Treviso. Once again here there are routes of every type but always on perfect rock.

MAPS: Tabacco sheet 022 (Pale di San Martino) scale 1:25,000



### Main support bases

#### Rifugio Giovanni Pedrotti (Rosetta), m 2581

The historic hut of this group, in the pass of the same name, the meeting point between the northern sector and southern sector of the Pale, on the western edge of the great plateaux.

It is also strategically positioned within a few minutes walk of the very busy Rosetta cable car, which leaves from San Martino di Castrozza, which means that the hut is crowded during the day but reasonably quiet in the evening.

It is an ideal base in particular for the Pala di San Martino and also good for climbing the attractive peaks around Passo Ball, near Rifugio Pradidali.

Sleeps 80, property of CAI-SAT, tel. 0439 68 308; [www.rifugiorosetta.it](http://www.rifugiorosetta.it).

Routes: Anticima di Roda, Via Castiglioni (Route 022)

Pala di San Martino, Gran Pilastro (Route 023)

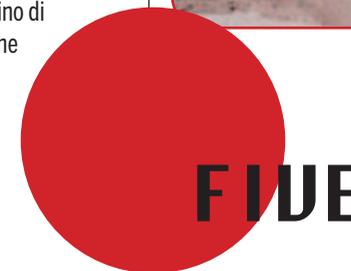
Campanile Pradidali, Spigolo Del Vecchio (Route 026)

Cima Val di Roda, Via Klose (Route 027)

Campanile Adele, Spigolo Zagonel (Route 030)

Torre Bettega, Via Fabbro-Bussi (Route 029)

Corno Smith, E Face (Route 028)



#### Bivacco delle Guide di San Martino, m 2996

This is the most alpine bivouac shelter of the Dolomites, located as it is on the large snow patch on the summit of the Pala di San Martino in a really splendid position. It can be reached only via mountaineering routes and is out of reach for mountain walkers. It offers only emergency accommodation for those arriving late on the summit of the Pala or in cases of bad weather, considering that the descent from this mountain is no easy undertaking.

6 bunks with blankets, in variable condition depending on the season and the good behaviour of the visitors.

Routes: Pala di San Martino, Gran Pilastro (Route 023)



#### Rifugio Pradidali, m 2278

A very nice hut and one of best mountaineering locations in the Dolomites, located in a scree hollow surrounded by fantastic peaks, including among others Cima Canali and not far away the breathtaking Sass Maor. Naturally this is the base for countless ascents of all types with starts never very far from the hut, even though all on mountains that require a minimum of experience because of the descents, which are almost always complicated. The possibilities beyond the routes described in the present guide are almost infinite for all those who want to explore this amazing world of rock. The hut is



reached either from Val Canali (Cant del Gal, Malga Canali or Fosne) in two and a half hours, or from San Martino di Castrozza, from where it is best to take the cable car to Rosetta, with two hours pleasant walk from here. The hut is superbly run by the mountain guide Duilio Boninsegna and his family. Property of the CAI, sleeps about 80, tel. 0439 64 180; www.rifugiopravidali.it and www.rifugiopravidali.com.

- Routes: Cima Canali, Via Buhl (Route 032)
- Cima Wilma, Via Castiglioni (Route 031)
- Torre Pradidali, Via Franceschini (Route 025)
- Cima Pradidali, Via Soldà+Zonta (Route 024)
- Pala di San Martino, Gran Pilastro (Route 023)
- Anticima di Roda, Via Castiglioni (Route 022)
- Campanile Pradidali, Spigolo Del Vecchio (Route 026)
- Cima Val di Roda, Via Klose (Route 027)
- Campanile Adele, Spigolo Zagonel (Route 030)
- Torre Bettega, Via Fabbro-Bussi (Route 029)
- Corno Smith, E Face (Route 028)

**Bivacco Carlo Minazio, m 2245**

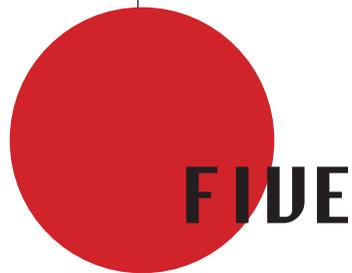
This bivouac hut is in Vallone delle Lede, a splendid mountaineering setting that is somewhat forgotten, perhaps because of the long ascent to reach the hut and the need to sleep over in order to climb any of the surrounding routes.

The bivouac is not in the typical plate metal "dog kennel" design but instead an attractive wooden construction with living room and two small bedrooms to sleep a total of 12 with plenty of blankets, providing very reasonable accommodation. It is reached in 2 hrs or slightly more from the Malga Canali car park or from Rifugio Treviso. It is also possible to reach the hut from Rifugio Pradidali over the Passo delle Lede (about 2 hrs 30 min).

- Routes: Cima Lastei, Via Wiessner (Route 037), Via Zagonel (Route 038)
- Punta Centovie, Via Ad Occhi Chiusi (Route 035)
- Pala dei Colombi, Via Traverso d'Autunno (Route 036)
- Fradusta, Via Nel Ricordo (Route 033) and Via Magia Bianca (Route 034)

**Rifugio Treviso (Canali), m 1630**

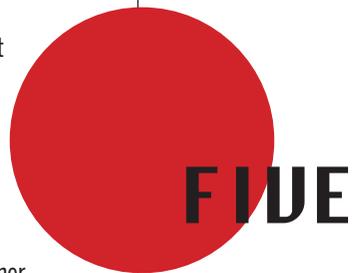
The low altitude of this hut, which is still in the woods, might be misleading. The routes to be climbed in the vicinity are among the best in the Dolomites: some suitable for beginners and others requiring great physical and technical ability; some just outside the hut, others with very hard approaches and descents. There is something for everyone, with the addition in the summer season of the guide Tullio Simoni and his family. Numerous climbers sleep here at weekends, making this



certainly one of the most climbing orientated huts in the Dolomites. Obviously it is much quieter during the week.

The hut is just over half an hour's walk from the Malga Canali car park, which is reached from Fiera di Primiero by following the signs for Val Canali to the Cant del Gal restaurant (there is also a bus service to this point) and then following a narrow tarmac road for 1 km to the car park.

- Owned by the CAI, sleeps 45 with good winter refuge that sleeps 6; tel. 0439 62 311; www.rifugiotreviso.it.
- Routes: Dente del Rifugio, Fessura Franceschini (Route 049) and Via Massarotto (Route 050)
- Pala del Rifugio, Via Frisch-Corradini (Route 047), and Via Gogna or Pentagramma (Route 048)
- Terza Torre dei Vani Alti, Via degli Argonauti (Route 046)
- Cima del Coro, Via Gadenz (Route 043), Diedro Wiessner (Route 044), Pilastro Franceschini (Route 045)
- Cima dell'Alberghet, Via Normale (Route 041) and Via BMZ (Route 042)
- Campanile del Centenario, Via del Centenario (Route 039) and Via Bandus (Route 040)
- Cima dei Lastei, Via Wiessner (Route 037) and Via Zagonel (Route 038)
- Pala dei Colombi, Via Traverso d'Autunno (Route 036)



WWW.RIFUGIOTREVISO.IT

## Rifugio Treviso

1630 M

42 POSTI LETTO

TEL. RIFUGIO:  
0439 62311

TEL. (FUORI STAGIONE):  
0439 62716

E-MAIL:  
MARA.IAGHER@TIN.IT

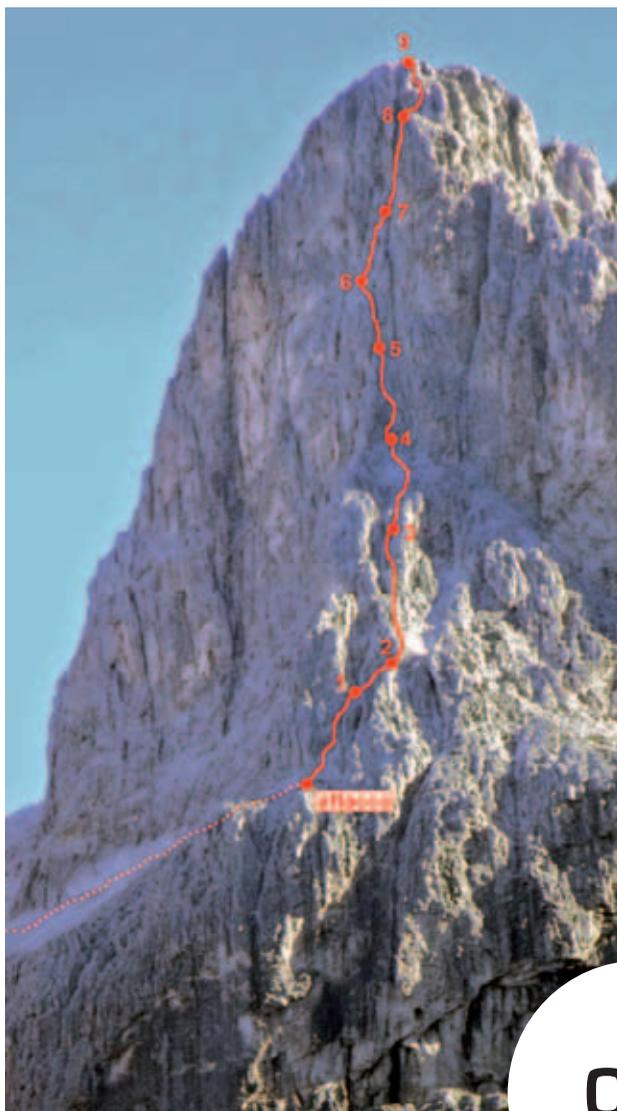
APERTURA:  
DAL 20 GIUGNO AL 30 SETTEMBRE

IL RIFUGIO È SITUATO IN UNA  
PITTORESCA POSIZIONE  
CIRCONDATO DA GRANDI LARICI E ABETI  
SUL VERSANTE ORIENTALE  
DELLA VAL CANALI.



# ANTICIMA DI RODA 2694 m

SW Arête – Via Castiglioni-Battisti



## FIRST ASCENT:

E. Castiglioni, E. Battisti,  
5 August 1934

**HEIGHT GAIN:** 250 m  
(starting from the big ledge)

**ROUTE LENGTH:** 320 m

**GRADE:** D- max 4, move of 4+

**TIME:** 4–5 hrs

**ROCK:** very good; some short sections less solid

**EQUIPMENT:** nuts and cams; pegs not required (some belays not in-situ but always plenty of natural placements)

## SUPPORT BASES:

Rifugio Rosetta,  
Rifugio Pradidali

*Climbed on 24.8.2009*

# 022

An interesting and enjoyable climb on good rock at difficulties that never become extreme. The rock is excellent on the final pitches, although perhaps not quite up to its reputation. The route is suitable for a short day with both the approach and descent no more than easy walks (unusually for the Pale Group). It is a local classic, used by guides with their clients, but should nevertheless not be underestimated requiring nearly all the protection to be placed on the lead, even if this is never a great problem considering the conformation of the rock.

# 022

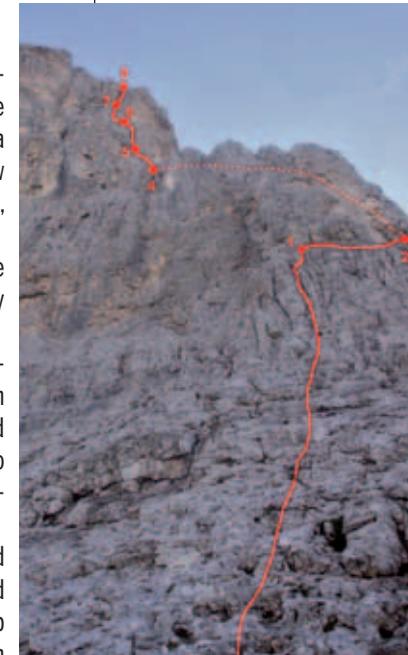
## APPROACH

From Rifugio Rosetta descend Val di Roda on path no. 702. On the L a faint path is encountered, traversing the ledge and scree horizontally below the Anticima di Roda. Follow this to the end to reach a gully where the original route starts (see below). It might be easier and more enjoyable to start about 30 m before, up a low angled slab of good rock. 40 mins.

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1) Climb the easiest line up the vast slab which becomes steeper above and is split by various small chimneys. Climb any one of these, keeping slightly R, and belay above on spikes below a yellow wall. The gully of the original routes arrives from below (same difficulty but a bit disconcerting for rockfall). 90 m; 2, move of 3.
- 2) A slightly rising traverse R arrives at a saddle above the base spur, the one that blocks the end of the big starting ledge. Belay on thread. 30 m; 1.
- 3) Ahead a gully-chimney starts upwards, initially very enclosed. Keep slightly to the L of it, on or immediately R of an arête (excellent rock), taking the easiest line up this feature and belaying on spikes wherever convenient. It is also possible to move into the gully where this looks easy (excellent rock), following it up to a ST 1P. 40 m; 3.
- 4) Continue up the small arête and its final small pillar to a good ledge with scree above which begins the system of cracks and chimneys followed by the route. Above the ledge climb steep dark walls with good holds, arriving below and slightly R of an

*The route seen from below*



obvious vertical crack on a tiny terrace and take a belay on an excellent thread. Just below to the L there should be a ST 2P. 40 m; 2, 4.

5) Climb the deep vertical crack immediately L of the stance (1P) to the top with some dubious rock especially at the start, and after a final vertical section (possible to exit R onto featured walls) gain a good small ledge. 35 m; 4, sections of 4+; 1P, ST 2P.

6) Up the slightly overhanging crack-chimney (move of 4+) and proceed inside the chimney (cams useful), until it narrows. Move outside the chimney on the R, or make cramped moves inside, to pass the bottleneck (move of 5-, 1TH at exit), continuing up a slabby wall to a ledge. 25 m; 4, 4+, move of 5-; ST 1TH, 1P.

7) Just R of the stance climb a chimney at the end of which is a good ledge on the L below steep walls (1P, possible stance). Climb the walls directly (move of 4+ at the start, threads) to a final small but comfortable ledge at the bottom of a vertical chimney, with a yellowish wall to the L and good grey rock to the R. 30 m; 4, move of 4+; 1P, ST 1P.

8) Climb the chimney to the top with the help of jugs on the R wall or inside (4, move of 4+, 3P), exiting slightly R just before the chimney transforms into a gully. Belay on a good ledge. Route book in a yellowish niche. 35 m; 4, move of 4+; 3P, ST 1P.

9) Continue on the R on rotten friable rock, just R of a small chimney (section of 3+, loose). A short distance above the crag drops back and easy rocks and scree lead up to the flat summit. 30 m; 3+, then 2.

## DESCENT

From the summit head for Rifugio Rosetta, clearly visible to the N, following a faint path. 20 mins to the hut.

*More photos at [www.quartogrado.com](http://www.quartogrado.com)*

022

*Parties on pitch 4*

