

Custonaci Area

Cala Fritrato Area
 Monte Monaco
 Scogliera - North
 Scogliera - Central
 Scogliera - El Bahira
 Scogliera - South
 Scogliera - Far South
 Macari and Castelluzzo
 Custonaci Area
 Palermo Area

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Mark Glaister on the magnificent *Long Sleep* (6b+) - P. \$\$\$ - at Never Sleeping Wall. Photo: Glaister Collection

Situated south of Mount Cofano, the area of Custonaci is home to three exceptional climbing areas. The stalactite and tufa-infested Never Sleeping Wall, Grotta di Cerriolo and its futuristic hard routes including an Adam Ondra 9a, and the delightful Rocca di Cerriolo with its multitude of route styles, steepness and an option to hide from the sun on hot days. As you will discover, Custonaci is a rich quarrying area for the famous Custonaci Marble. The quarrying leaves a notable scar on the surrounding country side which can make the experience less scenic than the other areas. Luckily none of the quarrying appears to be likely to effect the climbing areas. Although the difficulty level on the three areas is high, there is enough here to keep the mid-grade climber happy. It isn't great for easier routes though with only The Cactus Garden at Rocca di Cerriolo to go at.

Dave Pickford *Superman* (7c+) - p. \$\$\$ - at Never Sleeping Wall. Photo: Dave Pickford collection.

Approach to Area

The three crags described here are to the north of Custonaci and are best approached from the SP16. Whether coming from the north or south, look out for signs to Custonaci. Follow these towards the town until you can spot brown signs for 'Grotte Mangiapane'. This should now become your target. The road goes south of Custonaci straight through a few junctions before bending towards the north with the characteristic Mount Cofano visible in the distance. Drive down here and you can see the wall of Rocca di Cerriolo. Turn right at a roundabout (still signed to 'Grotte Mangiapane') and drive down here. The various crag approaches are described with the crag pages from this roundabout.



This amazing wall is tucked away on the south side of Mount Cofano, under a quarry. It is an impressive 90m+ tall and known as the 'Never Sleeping Wall' due to the fact that the original bolters could not get a good night sleep because of the strange sounds heard at night outside their vans. The rock formations are spectacularly with some incredible tufas, stalactites and flowstone on gently overhanging territory. Despite the vast potential only 24 routes have been equipped to date but more will surely follow. The current set are in the mid-to-hard grades and many are amongst the best of their grade on Sicily which makes a trip here very worthwhile although it can get a little busy at weekends.

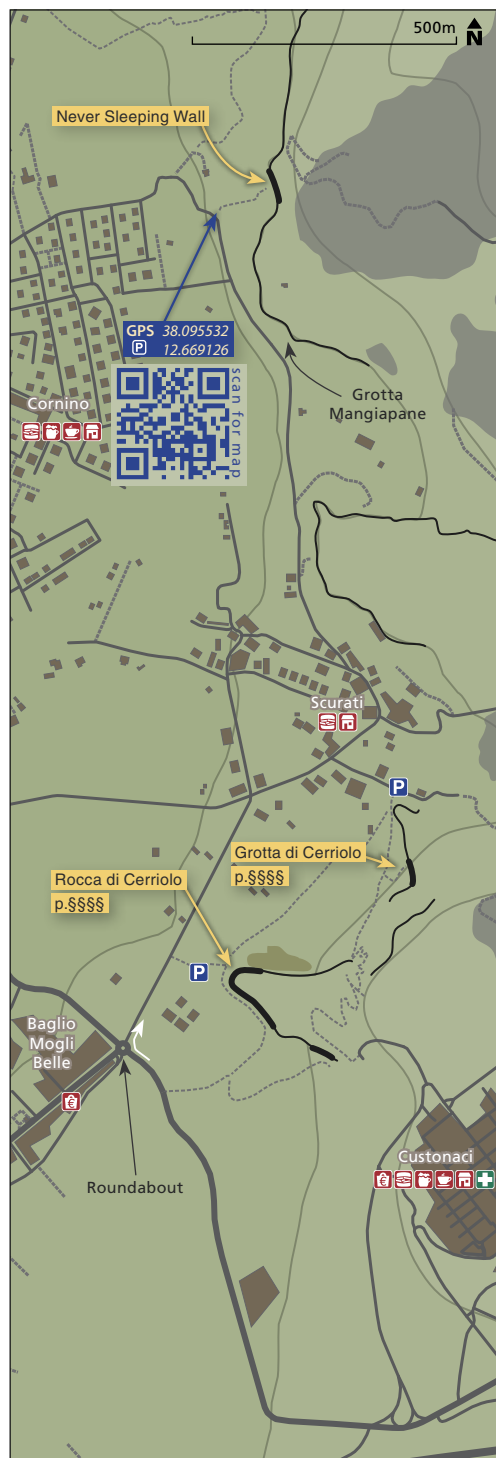
There are a few ultra-long routes (55m plus) which have been bolted sparsely (so that you can carry enough quickdraws!) but, for the most part, the routes are well bolted although some are in need of rebolting still.

Approach Area approach p. \$\$\$

Approaching from the east along SP18 you arrive at a small roundabout. Turn right here signed to 'Grotta Mangiapane' past Rocca di Cerriolo on the right to a diagonal cross road. Bear right and follow this road as it curves leftwards around the outskirts of Scurati. Keep right at the fork in the road with the grotto cliffs to your right and head straight along the road, which becomes a gravel track to the Grotta Mangiapane (a large cave with rock paintings and an elaborate nativity set at Christmas). Continue straight for another 300m and the cliff is visible on the right. Park here on a triangle track next to the grounds of a large villa. A path leads directly to the crag.

Conditions

The wall catches the afternoon sun and benefits from a westerly breeze. Seepage can be a big problem here after significant periods of rain.



Matt on *Bella Susanna* (7a) - p. \$\$\$ - at Never Sleeping Wall. Photo: Natalie Kemp



1 Fran Zenta 6c+
Thin wall climbing with tiny tufas and a sustained top section.
FA. E.Marlier, E.Caserini, D.Garin

2 La Rossa Tue 6c
A better right-hand variation to *Fran Zenta*, through some nice tufas midway. Steady climbing to a hard finish.
FA. E.Marlier, E.Caserini, D.Garin

3 Ede 7a+
A stiff little number with a hard move at 2/3 height to gain a sloping ledge.
FA. E.Marlier, E.Caserini, D.Garin

4 Enoteca Randazzo 7b
Start up some smooth flowstone and tackle the left-hand section of tufas/flowstone dripping midway down the wall. A good route but watch out for a tricky crux section on slopers.
FA. E.Marlier, E.Caserini, D.Garin

5 Sweet Dreams are Made of This 6b+
A tricky start (keep off that stone wall) is flowed by delightful tufa/flowstone section of climbing.
FA. K.Oelze



6 Long Sleep 6b+
A super route - tufas galore! Long and pumpy and ensure you save a bit for the finish otherwise it's game over!
FA. P.Mair

7 Conscious Change 6b+
Not as popular as its neighbours.
FA. A.Leichtfried, V.Leichtfried

8 Silent Sleep 6b
The most popular route at Never Sleeping Wall. No real hard moves up the maze of fantastic tufas and flowstone.
FA. P.Mair

9 Bella Susanna 7a
A long beast of a climb once known for its run-outs though it has now been re-equipped.

10 Cerca Passaggio 7c
This seldom-climbed route finishes at the roof.
FA. T.Tamagnini

11 Long White Line 7b
A run-out tufa climb which will prove more popular once re-equipped. It also seems to be getting easier.
FA. J.Smolen, D.Arena

12 Long White Night 7c
A massive 55m+ pitch which is designed to be climbed in one. Well bolted to reduce rope drag but that also means it is quite run out in places. Take care when lowering.
FA. L.Cermak, M.Monaco

13 Insomnia 7c
A massive 38m pitch but small beer compared to its neighbours. Neglected and needs a few more bolts.

14 Pioneer 6c+
Delightful tufa climbing on mildly overhanging rock. The fat tufa at the bottom is often wet.
FA. J.L.Titt

15 Superman 7c+
A super route with a hard start. Above that it is easier although there is plenty of it.
FA. A.Leichtfried

16 Evil Lurks Behind Every Man's Heart 7c+
Another massive 55m+ expedition up the centre of the wall finishing high up on a humongous tufa! Bolted to reduce rope drag so run out and take care when lowering.
FA. A.Leichtfried

17 Tears of Freedom 7a+
One of the finest climbs in Sicily. A superb series of tufas.
FA. A.Leichtfried

18 IL Patrone Nero 7c
A slightly windy excursion up the wall with a distinctive crux move before easier climbing above.
FA. A.Leichtfried

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19 Fun and Seitenstrang 6b

A relatively short one with hard moves around the bird cave.
FA. A. Leichtfried

20 Powernap 7c

A recent addition on the right-hand side of the wall.
FA. C.J. Stiller

21 Narcolepsie (P1) 7a

The first section of another monster pitch.
FA. T. Tanneberger, F. Wehner

22 Narcolepsie 7b

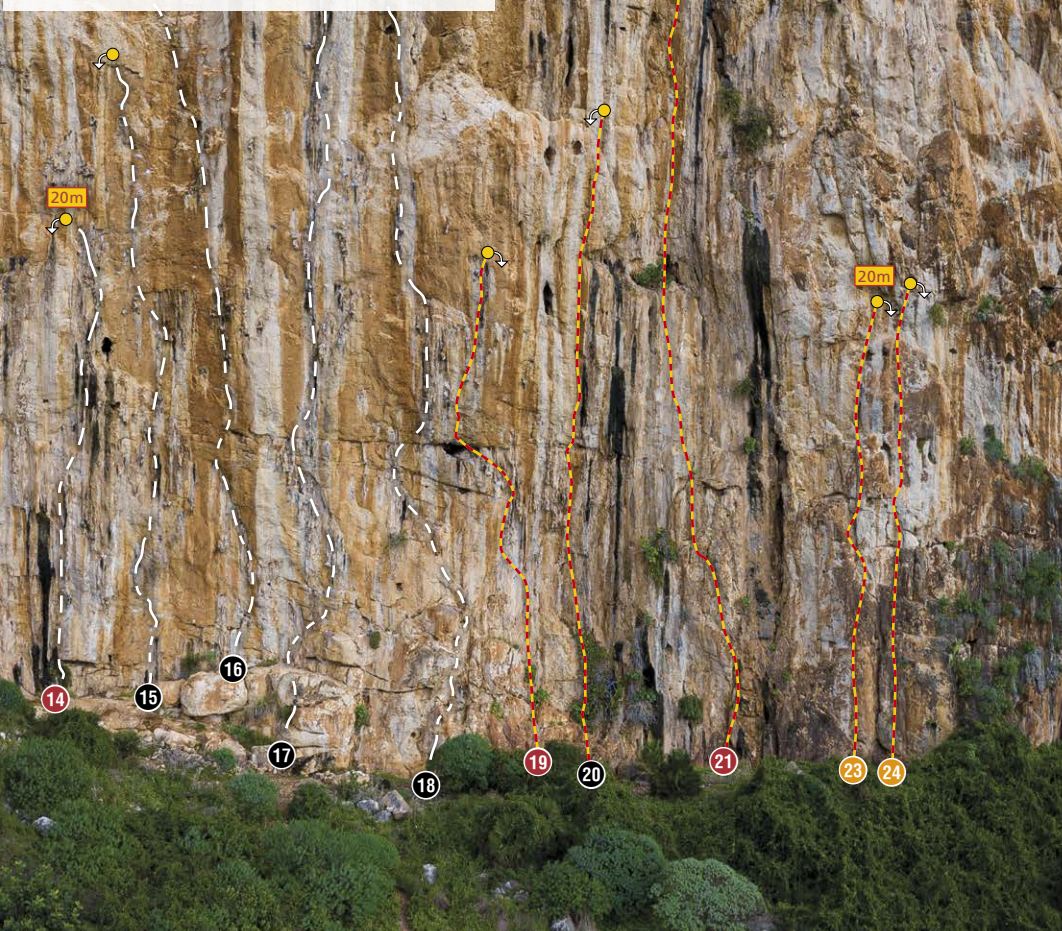
A 40m 7a then it gets hard. No further details are known except that this one is very long.
FA. T. Tanneberger, F. Wehner

23 Harissa 5c

A tricky but pleasant climb with a significant hard section.
FA. P. Mair

24 Peperoncini 6a

Not a good warm up especially in its upper half.
FA. P. Mair



Lena Palmer on the superb *Tears of Freedom* (7a+) - p. \$\$\$
- at Never Sleeping Wall. Photo: Jeff Rueppel.

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Although it only has only a few routes, this spectacular cave packs a punch. The three current routes and one project are stunning and spectacular challenges including *Climb for Life*, one of the hardest routes in the whole of Italy. The development took place during the San Vito Climbing Festival of 2012 but since then it hasn't really grabbed the attention of travelling climbers and only *Articioc* sees much attention. Hopefully this may change in the future and there is certainly plenty of potential for new routes albeit very hard ones. That said, the section running leftwards down the hillside could have a good set of easier climbs but perhaps not with quite the same impact.

Approach Map p.555

Approaching from the east along SP18 you arrive at a small roundabout. Turn right here signed to 'Grotta Mangiapane' past Rocca di Cerriolo on the right to a diagonal cross road. Bear right and then, after 150m, take the first right onto a small road. Go along here for around 120m and park at a small area on your left next to an electrical building. Take the path oppsite the parking for 150m until it curves up hill and another path leads off directly up to the cave - signed 'A.S.D.Cofano Bikers'. The cave has a small building at its base - a mountain bikers' refugio. Please respect anyone using this refugio and avoid climbing *Il mio nome e nessuno* if there are people present.

Conditions

The cave faces west but is steep enough to keep shade a little longer. It will give dry climbing in the rain but is likely to seepage after prolonged wet spells.



GPS 38.085575
12.672837

Grotta di Cerriolo

Bikers' Refugio

- ① **Il mio nome e nessuno** **8a+**
 The warm up of the crag! The start requires a unique approach. Either climb the line to the left of the bikers' refugio, or nip up carefully onto roof. Once on the route, follow the amazing upsidedown rib rightwards across the cave.
FA. M.Monaco, S.Ghisolfi
- ② **Climb for Life** **9a**
 One of the hardest routes in Sicily which follows the impressive leaning rib which leads up rightwards to the very lip of the cave.
FA. A.Ondra 2012
- ③ **Articioc**..... **8b+**
 The most established route in the cave up the impressive rib of stalactites to the lip of the cave then onto the headwall to eventually reach the lower-off. The left-hand line is an unclimbed project.
FA. B.Rivadossi / A.Ondra. Project bolted by C.Leube



①

②

③

P

28m

Bikers' Refugio

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Rocca di Cerriolo (also known as Parco Cerriolo) is an impressive golden pillar of red rock protruding from the hillside. A small north-facing section offers a shady option but it is the stunning west face with its long streaked walls and bulging roof at the starts that is the real centrepiece of the crag. The grade level on this section is high but luckily, around the corner, is a friendly south-facing wall with a good set of slabber routes. A final section of easier routes called the Cactus Garden is available although it is less straight forward to reach. Surrounding the monolith is an abandoned exercise park with pull-up bars and other interesting setups many of which are now overgrown.

Approach Map p. \$\$\$

Approaching from the east along SP18 you arrive at a small roundabout. Turn right here signed to 'Grotta Mangiapane'. and drive on past some houses for around then turn right into a field. Another parking area for parking is found 70m ahead. Just left of the bushes and small trees, a path leads to a wire fence - cross this with care. Continue straight to reach the Cerriolo - West. For Cerriolo - South go right on the lower track and pick up a path on the left direct to the wall. For the Cactus Garden, use the lower track which curves around a slope to reach this sector which is higher up and set back from the rest of the wall.

Conditions

Some shade can be found on the north facing section. For the rest it is west or south facing getting plenty of sun. The steeper tufa routes will suffer from seepage but the south face is likely to dry quickly after rain.



Lena Palmer on *Tratt (7a) - p. \$\$\$* - at the Rocca di Cerriolo. Photo: Jeff Rueppel



North

The narrow end of the Rocca has a north-facing section offering a welcome shady option if required. The easier routes to the left are popular starter climbs when arriving at the crag on warm sunny days. Bees nests are not uncommon here, so take a good look at the rock before setting off.

Approach (map p. \$\$\$, overview p. \$\$\$) - Follow the main path left under the crag and around to north side of the rock.

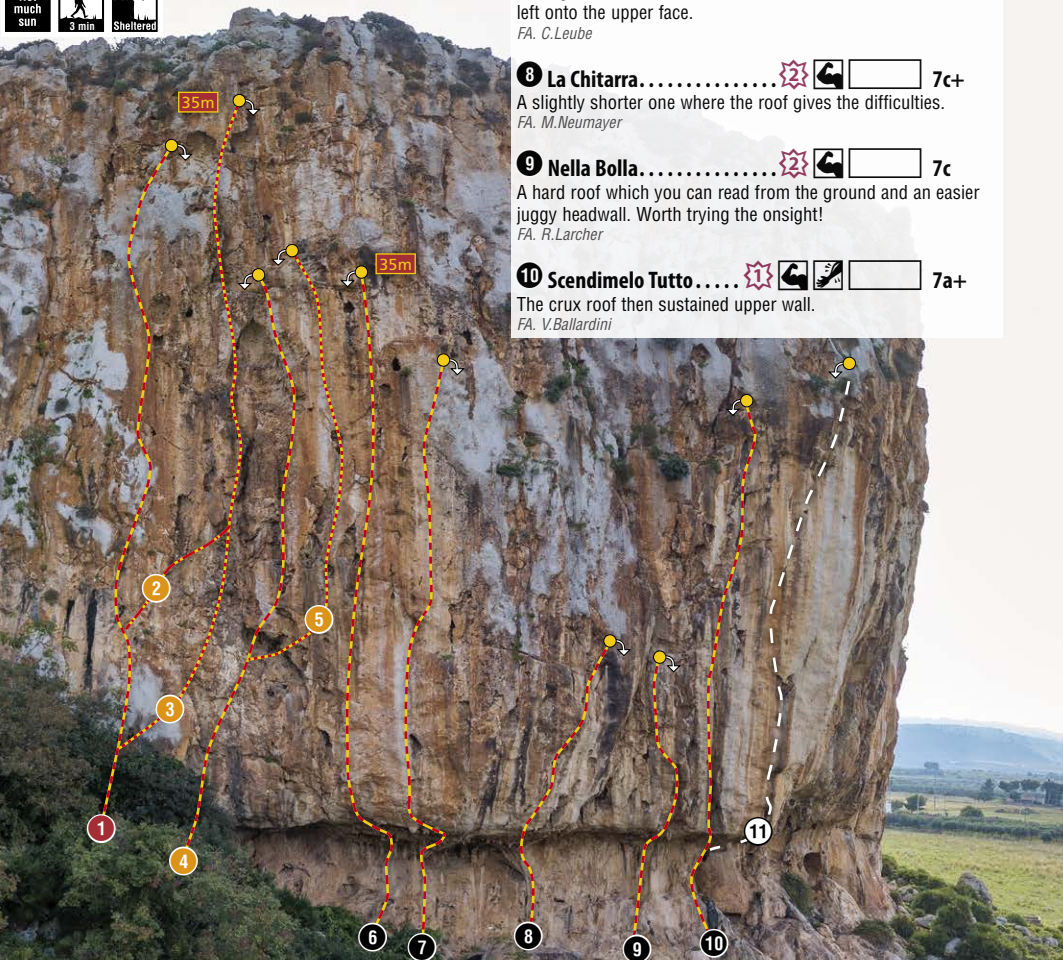
1 Überraschungsangriff 6b+

A jug fest with a thin and sharp crux at the end.

FA. F. Triller, I. Taubert

2 Ponyhof 6a

A link-up but the easiest way up this bit of wall hence popular.



3 Das Leben Ist Kein 6a+

Start up *Überraschungsangriff* and head right.

FA. F. Triller, I. Taubert

4 Still Pulling 5c

A sustained pitch. Extend the draws to reduce rope drag.

FA. S.L. Titt

5 Eight Weeks 6a+

The right-hand branch of *Still Pulling*.

FA. S.L. Titt

6 English Wanderbra. 7c+

The leftmost roof climb. Stuck on blobs, a dynamic move to a pocket and hard moves to establish yourself on the face.

FA. M. Neumayer

7 Ziggs 7c+

The right-hand roof line of stuck-on holds over the roof. Dart out left onto the upper face.

FA. C. Leube

8 La Chitarra 7c+

A slightly shorter one where the roof gives the difficulties.

FA. M. Neumayer

9 Nella Bolla 7c

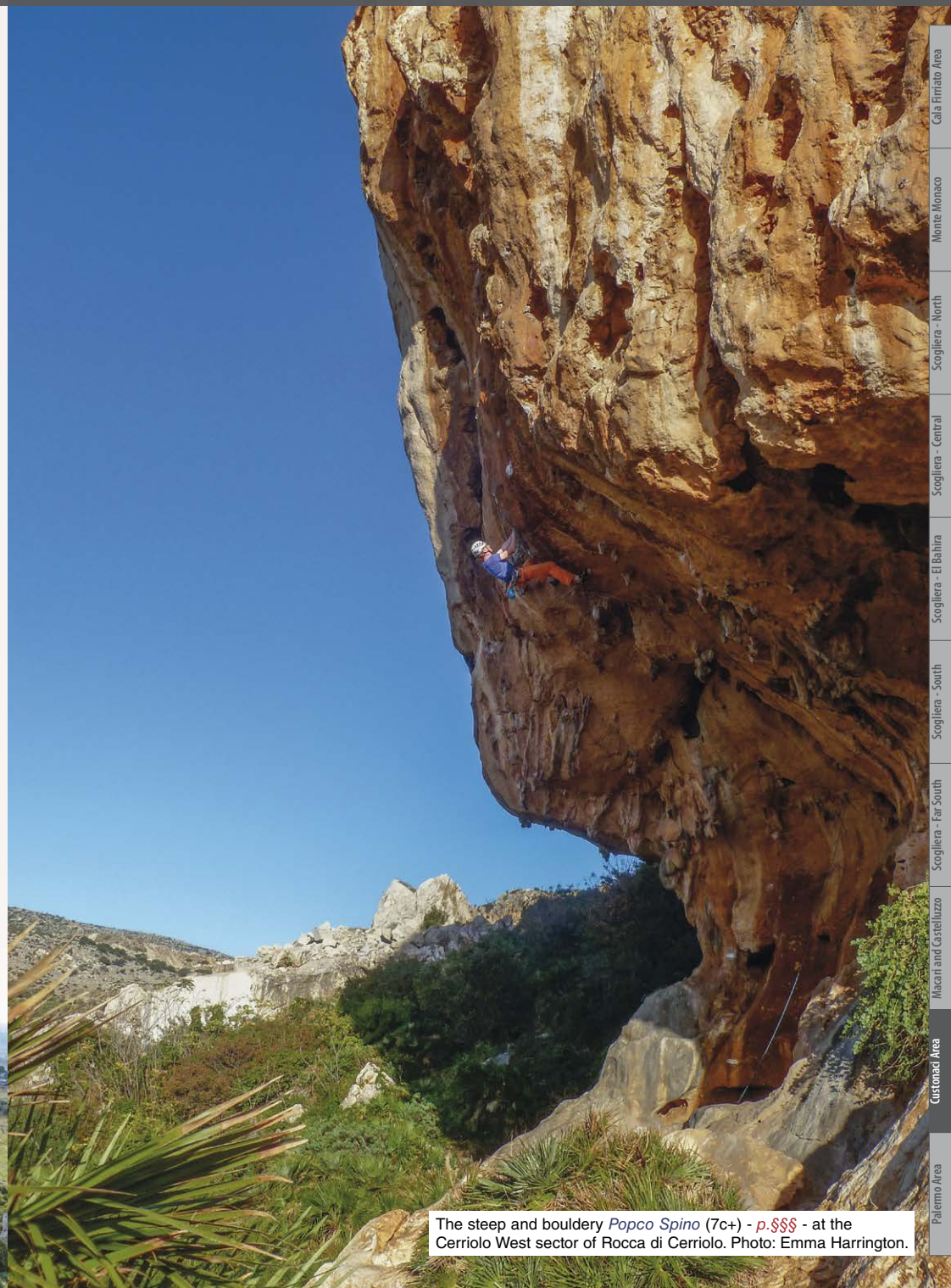
A hard roof which you can read from the ground and an easier juggy headwall. Worth trying the onsight!

FA. R. Larcher

10 Scendimelo Tutto 7a+

The crux roof then sustained upper wall.

FA. V. Ballardini



The steep and bouldery *Popco Spino* (7c+) - p. \$\$\$ - at the Cerrio West sector of Rocca di Cerrio. Photo: Emma Harrington.



West

The impressive west-facing end wall has steep and powerful roof starts followed by upper walls which vary from steady plods to draining stamina burns.

Approach (map p. \$\$\$, overview p. \$\$\$) - Follow the main path left under the crag and around to north side of the rock.

11 Custonaci 8b+

An impressive climb up the blank-looking face.

FA. Bolted by C. Leube

12 Feistus Plus 7c

A left-hand and harder finish to Feistus Reglettas.

FA. M. Neumayer

13 Feistus Reglettas 7b+

A great route with a bouldery section through the lower roof and sustained climbing thereafter.

FA. C. Leube

14 Frederich 7a+

The steep, sustained and pumpy left side of the open crack.

FA. C. Leube

15 Porco Spino 7c+

A steep and bouldery climb to the right of the large crack.

FA. C. Leube

16 Tratt 7a

Lovely stalactite over the roof - awkward to clip in places.

FA. C. Leube (Re-bolted)

17 Ten Minutes Too Late 8a+

Tackle the left side of the overhanging wide crack and the thin and technical slab above.

FA. C. Leube

18 Bambus 7c

A steep first section over the roof.

FA. C. Leube

19 The Time Has Arrived.. 6c

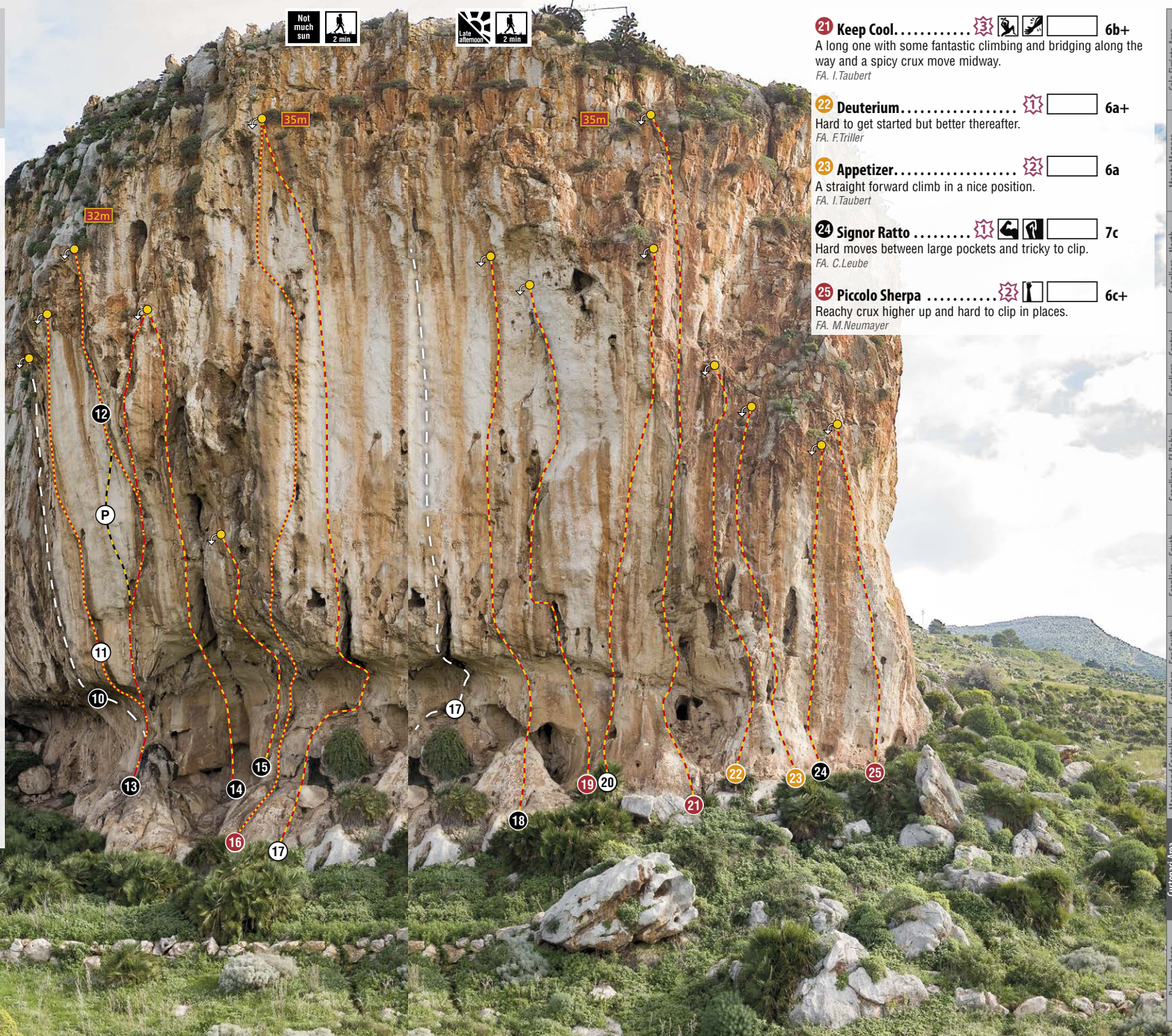
Jug pulling with some reachy moves along the way, especially when trying to clip the lower-off!

FA. C. Leube

20 Buffalo Soldiers 8a+

Less steeper than its neighbours to the left but just as hard. Finish up the arete at the top.

FA. C. Leube, M. Neumayer



21 Keep Cool..... 6b+

A long one with some fantastic climbing and bridging along the way and a spicy crux move midway.

FA. I. Taubert

22 Deuterium..... 6a+

Hard to get started but better thereafter.

FA. F. Triller

23 Appetizer..... 6a

A straight forward climb in a nice position.

FA. I. Taubert

24 Signor Ratto 7c

Hard moves between large pockets and tricky to clip.

FA. C. Leube

25 Piccolo Sherpa 6c+

Reachy crux higher up and hard to clip in places.

FA. M. Neumayer



South

The golden and sunny red wall on the south side of Rocca di Cerriolo has a set of good vertical routes which are mostly easier than those further left.

Approach (map p.555, overview p.555) - The wall is easily accessible using the crag-base path. There is also a lower track to reach the routes further right if heading straight from the parking.

1 Cactus Avanti 6c+
A significantly easier left-hand finish to *Manfred il Mago*.
FA. T.Tanneberger

2 Manfred il Mago 8a
Hard moves after the slab and some tricky clips above.
FA. C.Leube

3 Cannolo Scomposto ... 6b
Technical moves up the lower slab to reach a flake.
FA. C.Leube

4 Ginger 6a
Climb the slab to a delightful steep juggy wall. Keep an eye out for some loose rock at the top.
FA. M.Kast



5 Don't Worry Be Happy 6c
A nice route with only one hard section.
FA. I.Taubert

6 Safari 7a+
A one-move-wonder and a bit reachy in places.
FA. F.Blachut

7 Berluscojoni 6c
Head up the technical slab to tricky moves.
FA. M.Faletti

8 Kazzinger 6b+
A right-hand start to *Berluscojoni*. There may be bees here.
FA. M.Faletti

9 Lasciami uno Skizzo 6a+
A long route with a tricky section at the top. Make the most of the rests.
FA. M.Faletti

10 Ici al Vaticano 6b
A long crack climb which is still a little sharp in places.
FA. M.Faletti

11 Baciati dagli Angeli ... 6b
The face between the two crack systems - thin in places.
FA. I.Savoi

12 IL Barbagianni 6b
A good route with a tricky start and stopper move midway. Some loose rock has been reported at the top.
FA. E.Caserini, Marlier, D.Garin

13 Che Mostro 6b
Sharp, grey slab climbing to a better mid-section.
FA. E.Caserini / E.Marlier

14 IL Socio 6b
Similar to *Che Mostro* but even sharper! Watch out for a loose block on this one.
FA. V.Seganfredo, E.Marlier

15 Sunny Side Up 6a+
A well bolted (take lots of draws) long expedition to the very top of the wall.
FA. S.L.Titt

After a gap of more broken rock is a shorter vertical wall.

16 Wind Free 6a
The leftmost route.
FA. S.L.Titt

17 Wind Free - Right 6c
The direct and harder version to the route to the left.
FA. S.L.Titt

18 The Band Played On 7a+
A compact section of hard climbing to the 5th bolt.
FA. S.L.Titt

19 First Off 4c
An enjoyable climb.
FA. S.L.Titt

20 Second Sight 6b+
A super long climb with a hard and steep start. Take care when lowering off.
FA. S.L.Titt



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Cactus Garden

A quiet spot situated at the far right end of the cliff near an old cactus garden. The routes are shorter and in the lower grade spectrum and the crag has a slightly different approach.

Approach (map p. \$\$\$, overview p. \$\$\$) - From the parking, follow the main lower track which runs below Cerriolo South away from the rock in a southwest direction. Approximately 80m beyond a mound of boulders on either side of the path is a tree at a fork. Take the left gravelled path which curves back left and up the hill for 250m to the crag. Do not try to approach from Cerriolo - South since this will lead to much pain and suffering!

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1 Naji 5b
 The leftmost route on this isolated wall is harder than it looks.
 FA. J.L.Titt

2 Mancacaballo 5b
 Direct up the orange groove and move left. A reachy move.
 FA. J.L.Titt

3 Lengua de Vaca 6a
 A right-hand start of the previous route.
 FA. J.L.Titt

4 Kepo 5b
 Tricky through the mid section finishing up a rising crack.
 FA. J.L.Titt

5 Junquiuilo 5a
 No real hard moves and one notable run-out.
 FA. J.L.Titt

6 Indian Head 5c
 Juggy climbing leads to a large flake. The difficult final section can be avoided by using the route on the right.
 FA. J.L.Titt

7 Hecho 5c
 A pumpy and steep upper wall with some interesting 3D moves.
 FA. J.L.Titt

8 Gatito 6a+
 A tough and sustained outing with a bouldery start. Slightly run-out above and a difficult final section. Sharp rock.
 FA. R.Theujar

9 Fachno 5a
 Start up the left side of a groove (a variation start to *Erinco* clipping the bolts to the left). Head left onto the slab.
 FA. J.L.Titt

10 Erinco 5a
 Climb the open juggy groove - high first bolt. The start is easily confused with the first section of *Fachno* to the left.
 FA. J.L.Titt

11 Duro 4c
 Short and sweet with good climbing up the rib.
 FA. J.L.Titt

12 Cholla 4b
 A slightly disorientating trip up the slab.
 FA. J.L.Titt

13 Bishops Hat 4c
 A wandering little route with a steep and juggy mid section.
 FA. J.L.Titt

14 Agave 4b
 Some nice big holds to be found along the way.
 FA. J.L.Titt