



AAC Publications

Ansilta 7, Nico Made, Alegria

Argentina, Central Andes, Cordillera de Ansilta

In October, my girlfriend Wenny Sanchez and I climbed a new route in a remote part of Argentina's Central Andes: the Cordillera de Ansilta. The area is reached from the town of Barreal, in San Juan Province, and then by following harsh and rugged high-desert terrain westward along the Río Blanco. From Barreal it is about 30km to Estancia del Rio Blanco. From there it took us two days and about 12 total hours to hike the 18km, which starts around ca 2,000m to ca 4,300m at the base of the needles.

The climb ascends a very beautiful granite needle on the eastern side of Ansilta 7 (5,780m), starting just off the moraine below the Glaciar la Fría. Ansilta 7 is a large, glaciated mountain, and this needle is one of many possibilities in a recently discovered area that somewhat resembles Frey, outside of Bariloche. Nico Made is 4600mts.

Our climb mostly followed steep, clean cracks up compact, brown granite. We called the needle Nico Made and the route Alegria (230m,6c), which means "joy." Eight rappels bring you back down the route. The area has many other walls and needles ranging from 100–400m in height.

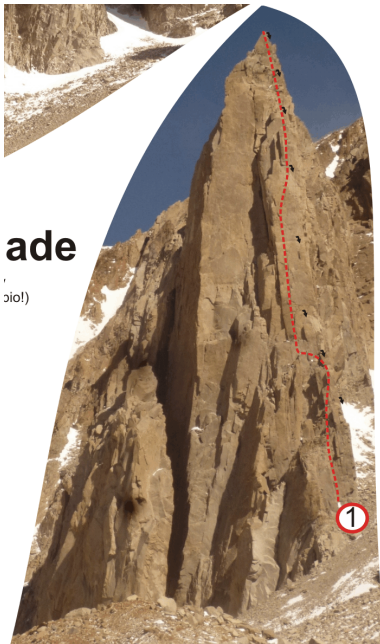
[Editor's Note: See <http://bit.ly/1s0SDUK> for a map and overview of the mountain, including a selection of walls and spires for future new routing.]

Gabriel Fava, Argentina

Images



Looking west up the large Glaciar la Fría toward the summit of Ansilta 7 (5,780m). The tower Nico Made is located out of picture to the right.



The tower Nico Made, showing the new route Alegria(230m, 6c), which means "joy."



The impressive, newly climbed tower Nico Made. Alegria(230m, 6c) climbs the right side of the aspect shown.



The tower NicoMade on the right and the Glaciar la Fría snaking upward toward Ansilta 7 on the left.



Gabriel Fava leads a steep corner on Alegria(230m, 6c).



Wenny Sanchez leading high on Alegria.



Blue sky and splitter hands on Alegria.



Crossing the Río Blanco on the approach to Ansilta 7.

Article Details

Author	Gabriel Fava
Publication	AAJ
Volume	57
Issue	89
Page	0
Copyright Date	2015
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions