

RIFUGIO BRANCA - VAL DEI FORNI - VALFURVA (SO)

# CLIMBING NEAR THE RIFUGIO BRANCA BUTTRESSES UNDER THE RIFUGIO

Great rock with quick and easy access. It is perfect for those who love easy and safe climbs. The face is nicely sculpted and for the first two pitches it is very smooth and polished. You climb on small edges with sections of friction. It's very enjoyable and in a charming setting. The buttresses are exposed to the sun and it is possible to climb from May to the end of October.



## Pure Gold (Oro puro)

Opened 13 & 22 Sep 2000 by Eraldo Meraldi & Bruno Antonioli.

**Length of the Route:** 130 m, 6 pitches.

**Difficulty:** maximum 5c (5a obligatory).

**Route protection:** 27 bolts of 10 mm, + 12 for belay, equipped for eventual rappel.

**Rack:** 8 quickdraws, 50 m rope, gear for belay.

1. **5c** - 25 m – slab and nice pocketed wall.
2. **5b** - 25 m – delicate slab.
3. **5a** - 25 m – small walls, then traverse to the left.
4. **5b** - 20 m – small delicate wall and slab.
5. **4a** - 25 m – small dihedral and slab.
6. **4b** - 10 m – small eroded wall.

## Quicksilver (Argento vivo)

Opened on 24 Oct 2000 by Eraldo Meraldi & Bruno Antonioli.

**Length of the Route:** 130 m, 6 pitches.

**Difficulty:** maximum 5b (5a obligatory).

**Route protection:** 26 bolts of 10 mm, + 12 for belay, equipped for eventual rappel.

**Rack:** 8 quickdraws, 50 m rope, gear for belay.

1. **5b** - 20 m – corner, small wall, and slab.
2. **5a** - 23 m – slab with holds
3. **5a** - 25 m - small, brief wall and slab with holds.
4. **5b** - 26 m – slab and a nice, delicate small wall.
5. **4a** - 25 - buttress and slab.
6. **4b** - 10 m – small, brief wall.

**Access:** 1. from Santa Caterina Valfurva follow the road that climbs up the Valley Forni (2178 meters). Park the car close to Rifugio/Hotel Ghiacciaio dei Forni, continue on the dirt road that leads to the Rifugio Branca. 200 meters before the steepest section of the road there is a wider section (cairn). Leave the road and descend right following the cairns (be careful not to go too much to the left) until you reach the obvious trail that leads to the plateau below. Continue following the base of the cliff until you arrive at the base of the buttress on the far right, then climb briefly to the beginning of the routes (45 minutes from the Forni parking area). There are name plaques at the start of each route.

2. from Rifugio Branca descend following the dirt road that leads to the stream. Just before the stream, start descending to the right along the stream (cairns). Continue to the base of the beautiful slabs, then move along them until the start of the routes (15 minutes). It is possible to descend using a double rope: from the Rifugio Branca descend on the dirt road that leads to the Forni parking area, and just before reaching the railing, descend 15 meters until the obvious rock equipped with protection for the final belay.

The routes were opened in 2000, newly equipped with stainless steel gear in autumn 2007 by Alpine Guide Eraldo Meraldi.

**Suggested period:** from June to October. **Orientation:** south-west. **Altitude:** from 2370 to 2460 meters. **Rifugio Branca:** Phone: +39 0342.935501