



Cocotte Minute - Aiglun (F)

A climbing gem in the deserted hinterland of Nice

Only about 80 km northwest of the bustling Nice, in the sparsely populated hinterland where time seems to be turned back by 50 years, lies the tiny village of Aiglun with the massif Paroi du Giet. On this 200 to 250-meter-high cliff one finds multi-pitch routes that belong to the best that France has to offer. The ambiance, rock quality and variability, the short, almost level approach and the beautiful descent are exceptional. The density of routes in some areas is so high that combinations of routes become possible which are sometimes better than the original routes.

Cocotte Minute
ED, 7b(6b+), S1-2
SW, 620 m a.s.l.

B. und B. Duterte (2009↑)
220 clm (0 vam)



overall impression ★★★★★

climbing ratio 79%
variety ●●●
scenery ●●●
exposure ●●
rock quality ●●●
steepness |\
fun factor ●●

The here presented Cocotte Minute is one of these wonderful routes that becomes even better when combined with the first two pitches of Vertige de l'Amour. In this case the first three pitches with the 6c start in sometimes dirty rock is replaced by a straightforward 6a pitch followed by a 7a+ pitch which leads in a left-traverse to the belay of the original P3. This belay is common with Cerise sur le Gâteau, another top route. The following P4 (silver bolts right up from the belay) is magnificent and uncomplicated with an athletic passage over an overhang. After that follow 45 fantastic meters in gray limestone on large buckets, similar to the rock in the Verdon Canyon. P6 again has red rock: First follow 3 golden bolts, then continue along silver bolts in easy climbing up to under a roof with a stunning rest position at the most exposed point of the route. Climb the boulder passage over the roof (often wet after a longer period of rain) in two hard moves to the belay above the roof. For the next pitch you should make an intermediate belay on two silver bolts (after about 15m in 6a terrain) in order to climb the following difficult meters without rope drag. The ingenious P8 begins in yellow rock, sometimes on tiny holds, and leads right up to under the gray overhang which one climbs right of the long sling with wide moves up to large holds near the bolt. Keeping slightly left and making a large dynamic move this grandiose pitch ends in easy terrain. The last pitch P9 is fun on gray Verdon-like rock structures to the final belay.

Before the descent take a look at the massif Paroi Dérobée with the legendary Ali Baba 8a(7a) and the easier Haka 7b+(6c). This isolated cliff can be reached only by a tedious, 1.5 hour approach over fixed ropes. From the exit of Cocotte Minute first keep right on an upward leading trail which ends at the highest point of the Paroi du Giet after about 10 minutes walking. There the real descent begins on a well-marked path which, after another 25 minutes, ends directly at the parking in Aiglun.

Other beautiful routes are: La Cerise sur le Gâteau, l'Artisan du Huitième Jour, Saga, l'Echarpe, Vertige de l'Amour.

Approach: Park at the exit of Aiglun (coming from Roquestéron). Walk for about 20 minutes on an almost level trail (stay left at the first bifurcation, then keep right at the next one), always heading towards the left part of the Paroi du Giet.

Start of the route: Left of Cerise sur le Gâteau (Cerise is scratched into the rock).

Guidebook and further information: "L'escalade dans les Alpes-Maritimes" by Jean-Claude Raibaud, 2010; original topo <http://www.guides06.com/topos/172>; other climbers' opinions on the French site [camptocamp.org](http://www.camptocamp.org) <http://www.camptocamp.org/routes/572700/fr/aiglun-cocotte-minute>



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Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



- P9: 6a**
20m, awesome gray rock formations.
- P8: 7b**
30m, first in yellow rock with difficult moves right up to below an overhang which is passed in a right-left loop.
- P7: 6a**
15m easy climbing, intermediate belay on two silver bolts.
- P6: 7a+ (6b A0)**
30m, first up the three golden bolts, then on silver bolts in red rock up to under the roof with good rest position. Boulder moves over the roof (risk of wetness). Spectacular.
- P5: 6a+**
45m, generous climbing on good holds in perfect gray Verdon-like rock. Beware of rope drag in the lower part. Dream pitch.
- P4: 6c**
30m, silver bolts. First sharp yellow rock with tiny holds, then straight-forward over a gray overhang. Great!
- P3: 4+**
connecting pitch (not needed for the Vertige)
- P2: 7a+**
difficult immediately after the belay, then stamina. More beautiful is the Vertige with a hard section in the middle (7a+), then fun climbing. Traverse to the left to golden chains.
- P1: 6c**
difficult for the beginning, also some dirty rock. Beautiful alternative: Vertige de l'Amour 6a (dashed line).



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In the foreground the Paroi du Giet where the Cocotte is located on the left part of the wall, left of it in the background the Paroi Dérobée.



In the marvelous P5 with its good holds . P6 leads over the pillar (partially obscured by the bush) and ends over the roof.



The beginning of P8 after the intermediate belay.