



The metamorphosis of an old tech route in a wild sector of the Verdon Canyon

The south face of the Imbut, also known as the Maugué sector, is mainly made up of routes along classic lines such as the Roumagaou (1973), Péril Rouge (1974) and Péril Jaune (1977), all from the 1970s. De l'Art et du Cochon on the steep wall to the right of Péril Rouge was set up by the Rémy brothers in 1987. They borrowed a short ramp passage from the Péril Jaune in P4 and then branched off to the heart of the route, a compact gray-yellow wall. The route exit had to be climbed technically in A0 style. Pascal Faudou, one of the main players in the post-development area, rebolted and slightly modified the course of the 1st and 5th pitches, thus creating a modern free-climb that runs in the best possible rock and is extremely exposed. All this in a unique, wild environment of the Verdon Canyon. Why Faudou used 8.8 mm bolts in the first three pitches, while the rest has 10 mm bolts, remains a mystery though.

The "new" P1 leads over a compact gray wall with few but well-defined holds and continues in a long right-traverse all the way to the original belay of the Rémy brothers (6c). After another few meters to the right the original line of P2 follows the exposed edge of a pillar. Almost at its end there is a technically difficult move into the gray wall, and with a run-out that is not really frightening one reaches the belay (terrific, 6c+). The much easier P3 leads over good pockets to a belay on a ramp (6a+). After a few easy meters to the right, the Péril Jaune part, one leaves the ramp and climbs straight up into the wonderful gray-yellow wall with interesting side and undercling moves which make up the difficulties of this pitch. The rest of this awesome P4 up to the belay is relatively easy (6c). The last pitch P5 is by far the hardest: It begins already difficult in yellow rock and leads with a right-left curve to the crux, a gray, slightly overhanging section with many small holds. As the best ones are not obvious and hard to find without chalk marks, the crux is difficult to climb on-sight. The route ends with spacious climbing on the finest gray Verdon limestone (7b).

At the route exit just follow the few cairns essentially straight up until you meet the descent path (about 15 minutes to the parking lot).

Approach: Parking at Belvédère du Maugué, 4.7 km away from La Palud sur Verdon on the Route des Crêtes in direction Chalet de la Maline.

Start of the route: The descent begins at the end of the iron balustrade of the parking lot (in direction La Maline). First go a few meters down over small boulders, then keep left and follow the path which is marked with red dots and cairns until you reach the gorge (at a junction with a tree and a wooden panel turn right). When the path for the first time comes close to the steep red wall of the south face of l'Imbut (there it leads over a small boulder field), leave the trail. Go right and up for a few meters to reach the start of the route which is marked with a gray plate (about 40 minutes from the parking lot).

Guidebook and further information: S.Aldinger, O.Dobel-Ober, P.Faudou: 52 ans et 520 voies d'escalade au Verdon, 2017; Grimper 158, 2014: Destination Verdon – Le topo intégral des gorges signé Bruno Clément; <https://www.camptocamp.org/routes/57481/fr/verdon-l-imbut-de-l-art-et-du-cochon>

De l'Art ou du Cochon		C. and Y. Rémy (1987↑)
ED, 7b (6b+), S2		P. Faudou (2008)
S, 600 a.s.l.		170 clm (-230 vam)
		overall impression ★★★★★
		climbing ratio 80%
		variety ●●●
		scenery ●●●
		exposure ●●●
		rock quality ●●●
		steepness \
		fun factor



De l'Art et du Cochon - Verdon (F)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



P5: 7b, 30m

Difficult start in yellow rock. The crux section in the gray overhang is difficult to read.

P4: 6c, 35m

A few meters to the right and upward along an easy ramp, then straight up into the wonderful, steep wall.

P3: 6a+, 25m

Gray rock at its best. Rather 6b.

P2: 6c+, 30m

Along a steep and exposed pillar. At the end some difficult moves into the gray wall. From the last bolt a wider distance to the belay.

P1: 6c, 50m

Compact gray rock with horizontal and vertical cracks. Long right-traverse to the original belay of the Rémy brothers.



P4, the best part of the route.



De l'Art et du Cochon - Verdon (F)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



The start of P1.



The end of the gray pillar of P2, just before the tricky traverse into the wall section.



The final part of P4 with its incredibly good rock.



The difficult beginning of P5. The crux is further up in the gray rock sector.