



## One of the major routes in the Vallée de l'Arve

Hardly known outside France is the Vallée de l'Arve which you pass on the way from Geneva to Chamonix. Shortly behind the small town of Cluses, on the left of the highway, you see the wide massif of La Maladière. A few kilometers further the massif Les Vuardes rises on your right side. Both cliffs offer excellent multi-pitch routes which can be accessed comfortably from above, similar to the climbs in the Verdon Canyon. Due

to La Maladière's low elevation and its West orientation you can find comfortable climbing conditions on both cool as on warm days.

The route "Noli me tangere" ("Don't touch me") comes relatively late into the sun, around 1 p.m. Remarkable is the great variety of different rocks: gray limestone typical for high altitude alpine routes, yellow limestone with drip holes, and sandstone- and granite-like formations of all shades of color. Also the spectrum of climbing includes everything: edges, drip holes, buckets, face climbing, overhangs, steep crack passages and traverses.

The first two pitches in gray limestone and with great, granite-like climbing on edges are ideal for warming up (6b+). The perfect P3 starts with big holds in brown rock, similar to the Calanques, then it changes to sharp rock with drip holes (6c). In P4 sharp limestone prevails with a hard single move at the end (7a). The following pitch is easier and fun climbing (6b). The short but steep and athletic P6 has a few meters of brown crack structures in common with the "Cobra Cabana" and then turns right to the belay (6c+/7a). P7 begins with a descending, well protected traverse which, initially, is easier than expected, but then surprises with a hard single move at the lowest point (7a+). At the beginning of the magnificent P8 make a dyno, at the end climb difficult 5-6 meters on small holds to the belay which is slightly left on a ledge (7a+). In P9 the rock suddenly turns into gray, slightly dirty limestone with lichens resulting in poor friction for the hands (7a). The short 7a final pitch can be chickened out if necessary by taking the easier 6b+ exit via the "Cobra Cabana". However, in contrast to the original, this exit is not particularly nice and also has a dangerous clip position after a long left traverse. But you have to reach the top somehow, because after the traverse in P7 a retreat by abseiling is hardly possible.

**Approach:** Park on the left side of the road from La Frasse to Saint-Sigismonds, at the junction to the small hamlets of Treydon and Ballancy (large wooden cross "La Croix Verte"). Walk up for about 45 minutes on a forest path through woodland in southwestern direction towards "Pointe du Chevran par la forêt" until you reach the edge of the cliff of La Maladière. Abseil on a chain around a large tree in the sector "Les Tropiques".

**Start of the route:** After 5 times abseiling traverse along the cliff in southeastern direction for about 150 meters. The start is behind a group of trees and is common with the route "Cobra Cabana" which runs left. The first pitch of "Noli Me Tangere" leads over a gray slab in granite-like climbing, always keeping to the right (on bolts with a relatively small opening, so-called "plaquettes suisses").

**Guidebook:** Vallée de l'Arve, Gilles Brunot, Association EKIPROC 2009 – an excellent guidebook with numerous photo topos. For information on other routes at La Maladière see also <http://www.campocamp.org/summits/41520/fr/maladiere> .

### Noli me tangere

ED, 7a+(6b+), S1-2

W, 850 m a.s.l.

M.Piola,

V.Sprungli (1995↑)

270 c1m (200 vam)



overall impression ★★★★★

climbing ratio 85%

variety ●●●

scenery ●

exposure ●

rock quality ●●●

steepness |

fun factor ●





# Noli me tangere – La Maldière (F)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



**P10: 7a**  
Easier exit to the left (6b+) with a dangerous clip position after a long left traverse.

**P9: 7a**  
A bit dirty and with lichens. Difficult at the overhang.

**P8: 7a+**  
Dynamic move at the beginning, difficult in the upper third.

**P7: 7a+**  
Hard single move after the lowest point.

**P6: 7a**  
In the mid a few meters together with "Cobra Cabana". Stamina.

**P5: 6b**  
More drip holes.

**P4: 7a**  
Drip holes with a hard single move at the end.

**P3: 6c**  
Spacious with some distantly placed bolts. At the end transition to sharp rock with drip holes.

**P2: 6b+**  
Edge climbing in gray, later brown and yellow sandstone-like rock.

**P1: 6b+**  
Common start with "Cobra Cabana" which runs left.





In the impressive traverse of P7.





# Noli me tangere – La Maldière (F)

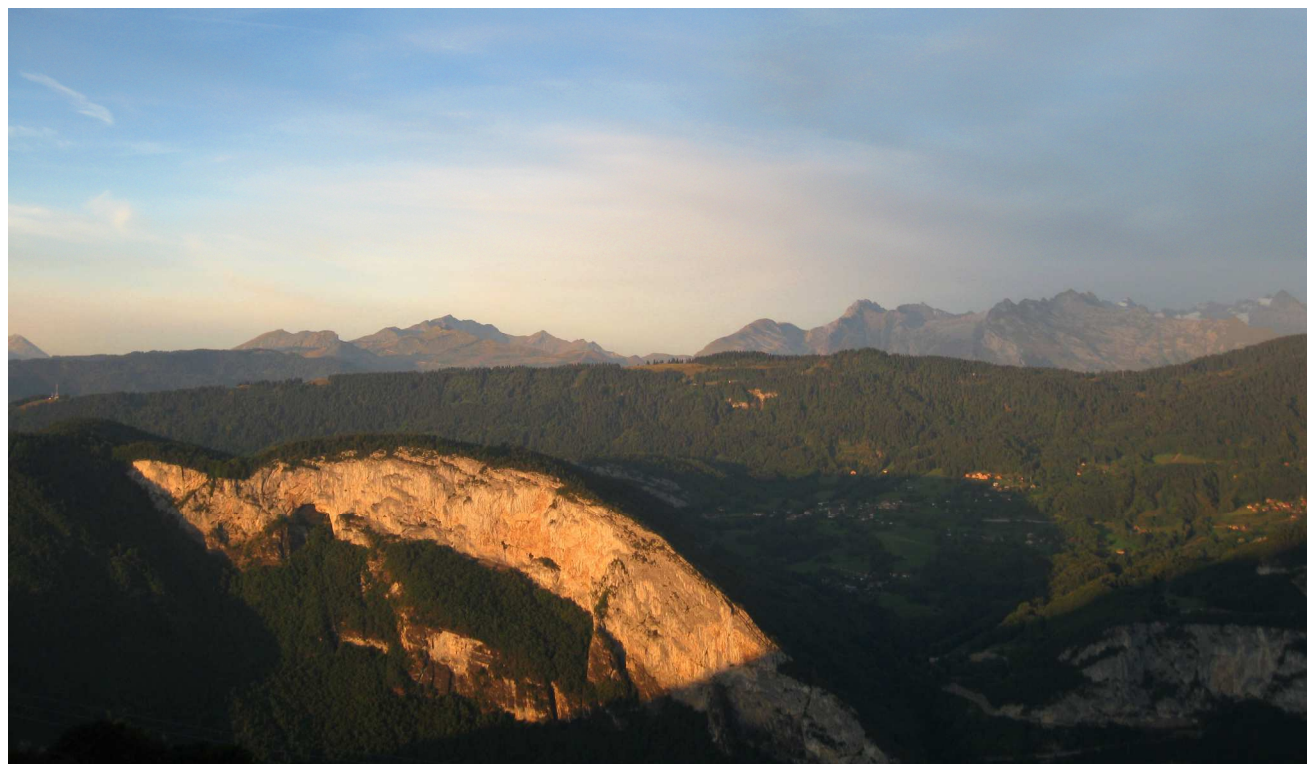
Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



At the end of P2.



The grand P3.



The Maladière massif in the evening light.