



# Valle dell'Orco Trad Climbing Meet 2012



## Directors' remarks

Monday morning... the sky is low, foggy, rainy, and we cannot stop thinking how lucky we all have been during this wonderful week.

The trad meet is over, most of you have already come back home, hopefully happy for the experience, probably a little bit sad to leave behind such a special moment.

As I had the opportunity to say, a climbing meet is a touching experience. This one was no exception.

Everyone of you was amazingly involved in climbing and happy to meet other people in order to share an unforgettable experience. As far as I saw, everyone of you, regardless of personal skill, did the best effort on quality climbs, bruised hand skin on meat grinding cracks, faced with optimistic smile horribly exposed liebacks, sent with unrelenting pace glass-smooth slabs... Great job guys!

We could climb everyday - believe me or not, this was not thanks to the organization, we were just lucky. Such a good weather allowed everyone to see various crags, even on the mountains, and you had the opportunity to fully appreciate walls with distinctive features, so different from each other.

The average level of you, climbers, was sensitively higher with respect to the 2010 edition. On one hand this has given you more independence of choice, and more options in selecting routes. On the other hand, for most of us host climbers, it was more and more difficult to follow you on your trips on the walls... this just meant we had to satisfy us to witness incredible achievements during the week... let me say with obvious pleasure.

It is a pity that we had not the chance to climb with anyone of you, as that would have been so nice for us, but at least we will exchange pictures to fix faces and moments in mind...

Once more we are satisfied with our host climbers. Their flexibility allowed us an easy management of teams. Though not many, we succeeded in making them enough. Be sure it was a memorable experience for them too, and this is not difficult to think, since most already participated in the first meeting and some were coming from far away (by Italian standards, of course). Meeting addicts?

Now the "negative" notes...

A general "lack of girls" was a common remark... this means that Kirsten, Caroline, Moa, Eva and eventually Anastasjia were even more appreciated. However we cannot do much about that: the "rude" climbing style required by most climbs in the valley is obviously of little help in attracting females, and to recommend to climbing federations to stick to a 50% share seems useless.



# Valle dell'Orco Trad Climbing Meet 2012



On last meet female climbers were 9 out of 42, this time they turned out to be only 4, 5 in the end, out of 35. Should you have any idea about how to blackmail climbing federations on this point please let us know. We will appreciate it... But be sure that we will stress the point when preparing the next meet.

Another point of regret is about vegetarian meals. Despite we had already some warnings from last meeting, we fear we did not improve much... A little bit of attention could have been enough, so we beg your pardon for a certain lack of fantasy and variation on menus. Also last dinner was not what we originally had in mind - we will keep the restaurant scores for the future. Apart of these few notes, food was reasonably good, and in the desired amount...

The closing evening concert instead deserves a special remark. This was really a good idea, especially when you have a group leader like Vincenzo... The result has been an amazingly hot night, a proper conclusion of a wonderful week. Take in mind that all in the group were 59 or even more, so you will agree with us they were really fantastic.

In the thanks chapter we have to remember the municipality of Ceresole Reale for the help we have received in organizing and managing the week.

Finally let us take this opportunity to thank you all. You are the main ingredient, and proved to be such. Thank for your enthusiasm, your curiosity, your flexibility, your cheerfulness... If the meeting has been a successful one, well, this is mainly due to you all.

We are sure you will bring home a good memory of the week. Speak to your climbing friends about Valle dell'Orco, speak to them about preservation issues, tell them about adventure, which makes climbing memories much stronger, tell them about friendship and brotherhood, common feelings when you share the everlasting passion for climbing.

We hope to see you again, somewhere. And why not, even in Ceresole.

Kisses

Mauro & Claudio

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012