

# LVS training at Diavolezza

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climbed the Mt. Blanc de Cheilon by the normal route (PD, II) over the Col de Cheilon. The trio scrambled over the West Ridge up to the steep upper glacier. Without any particular difficulties, the glacier lead to the final ridge which was scrambled up by the club members who then reached the summit and were able to enjoy a clear view over the Alps. The four other Huttli decided to do the traverse over the East Ridge (AD, III). After a nice hike on the glacier with a bit of route finding through open crevasses, they reached the Col de la Serpentine. From there, the terrain got

steeper on firm snow, up to about 3810m, where the most interesting part of the tour started: a clean rocky ridge leading to the summit. The climb, quite aerial most of the time, was secured by running belays and a gendarme that had to be rappelled down 10-15 meters. Both groups descended over the normal route and scrambled down the West Ridge over loose rocks until they reached the campsite. A couple more hours were needed to hike back out to Arolla.

*Josquin Pfaff*

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## **LVS TRAINING AT DIAVOLEZZA**

In November 2016, Moritz Wälde and I organized an avalanche training weekend at Diavolezza, with the aim of providing a refresher training in avalanche rescue and prevention skills. The plan was to conduct a beacon (LVS) training on Saturday afternoon, organize some talks in the evening about prevention techniques, and finally enjoy a nice tour or some skiing on Sunday.

Upon arrival, we found that much of the skiing area had been closed for race training. Thus the group passed on the gondola ride to Diavolezza and skinned up to the slopes. While disappointed with the lack of skiing options, the uphill trek woke our minds and legs for the upcoming winter season. Later in the afternoon, we began our LVS training, splitting into two groups. Despite the variable depth of snow (including some very shallow areas),

the groups were able to bury the beacons and retrieve them. We also discussed the finer points of the initial search, as well as techniques to make the close-range search fast and efficient. The participants' wide range of experience served as an excellent opportunity to share different techniques and expose the new club members to the basics of LVS rescue.

After the training, we retreated to Diavolezza, where we talked some more about avalanches and enjoyed live music and a tasty dinner. The following Sunday, several of us enjoyed a climb on a nearby peak while others continued to freshen up their legs with skiing on the available slopes. And with that, the ski season 2016–17 was under way.

*Ian Delaney*