

for the crux. Last winter also saw the largest development of single pitch lines from 5.8 to 5.12 with 40 new routes in three months.

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Cerro El Gavilan, Spanish Harlem. It was reported that Albino Pon and Rodman and Marcus Garcia put up the 11-pitch *Spanish Harlem* (a.k.a. *The Prow*, 5.11+ A1) over 13 days on Cerro El Gavilan near El Portrero Chico. The route was established ground-up and is mostly naturally protected. (*Rock and Ice* 86)

El Gigante, Simuchi. In the Basaseachic Waterfall National Park, Chihuahua, Carlos García Ayala (Mexico) and Cecilia Buil (Spain) made the first ascent of *Simuchi* (“*The Hummingbird*,” VI 6c A4, 1000m) on the northwest face of El Gigante from April 5-25. A complete account of their climb appears earlier in this journal.

SOUTH AMERICA

VENEZUELA

Roraima Tepui, El Mundo Perdido. Tony Arbones (Spain) and I established the route *El Mundo Perdido* (VI 7b+ A2, 480m) on the southwest face of Roraima Tepui in February in Venezuela. The expedition lasted two weeks—one for trekking and another of climbing. The route wanders up a 460-meter sandstone face that overhangs all the way. We established the route from the ground up. The high level of the climb was the result of a mistake: we wanted to put up a sport route with hard free climbing and good bolts, but after our powerdrill broke, the route turned into a traditional-style route with natural protection.

The route’s 17 pitches went as follows: 6a, 6b+, 6c+, 7a+, 7a, 7a, 5+, 7a+, 6b+, 7a+, 7a, 7b+, 7a+, then three meters of aid on hooks, then 7b, 7a, 7a+, 7a+, 6c. All the pitches were freed except pitch 12, which was not linked up, and pitch 14, which includes a short section of aid. We swapped leads, and left nine 10-mm bolts (on pitches 3 and 4) and some 20 pegs.

We also found 17 hand-drilled 8-mm bolts without hangers. Once back in Europe, we learned the bolts were from an aid route that met our climb in places. *Gorillas de la Niebla* (“*Gorillas in the Mist*,” VI A4) was put up over 11 days by Xabier Izagirre and Raul Alava at the end of 1996. While on the wall, we didn’t even know that the hangers were those of a finished route, as climbers from Caracas had told us no one had climbed this main wall of Roraima. When we found the first hangers on pitch 6, we didn’t follow their path but only tried to reach the top by the most logical way for us. On some pitches we found several more hangers, on others, none. It appears that we followed a line close to *Gorillas*, but didn’t free climb their route.

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