

free climbing up to 6b. When it was cold, because of the frequent snowfall verglas was abundant and the fixed ropes iced up. In rare warm weather, the rock ran water. The rock was never excellent but never really bad. Expanding flakes made some of the progress slow and somewhat dangerous. All four of us made the summit on February 22 on a cold and very windy day in a 33-hour round trip. We call the route "Cristal de Roca." Palacios and Ballester had to return home to Spain. Chaverri and I headed for another new route to the north summit of the Torre Norte del Paine. The Torre Norte has two distinct summits, the north summit slightly the lower. The peak and the 500-meter-high west face had no ascents until 1992, when two Italian parties and a British-South African team all three completed new routes to the north summit. (See *AAJ*, 1993, pages 194 and 196 and the present *AAJ*.) On March 4, Chaverri and I started from the forest and fixed 150 meters of the face on an impeccable day. The route led up slabs and elegant cracks, although many were running water, an eternal Patagonian problem in good weather. It was mostly free climbing with occasional aid. We descended to bivouac in the moraine. On March 5, we climbed two hours to the foot of the wall, a rise of 700 meters in part on uncomfortable 40° slabs, to complete the climb in a brisk west wind. After regaining the first 150 meters, we climbed another 170 more vertical meters, where we occasionally had to use aid in frozen cracks. Once on the north shoulder, we found easier climbing above with only 15 meters of V+, A1. We descended the same route in a fierce storm. We call the route "Armas y Rosas." On neither climb did we place any bolts. [An excellent article with photographs, a map and details useful for anyone heading to the region is found on pages 86 to 92 of *Desnivel* of June 1993.—*Editor*.]

LORENZO ORTIZ, *Peña Guara, Aragón, Spain*

*P 2000.* This peak lies just south of Cerro Catedral in the Valle del Francés. A route on its east face was worked out on six different days during December, 1992 and January, 1993 by Italians Svaluto Moreolo, Mauro Valmassoi, Alessandro Raccamello, Renato Pancierre and Roberto Canzan. They fixed 400 meters of rope. The top was reached on January 22. A photograph of the route appears in *Desnivel* of May, 1993.

*Cuerno Norte del Paine, 1992.* On December 30 and 31, 1992, Mike (Twid) Turner and I climbed an excellent new 21-pitch route on the northwest face of Cuerno Norte del Paine above the Valle del Francés. After failing to make new routes and climbing the normal route on the Torre Norte del Paine, we turned to the sheer northwest face of the Cuerno Norte. On the northwest arête, cracks seemed to lead up into stange holes and then into chimneys before reaching the summit shale. We made three unsuccessful attempts. The first reached the foot of the face and the second ascended 200 meters of easy climbing, followed by four pitches of increasing difficulty. The third ended on a day when the wind blew me off my stance and Twid dropped all the small wires and was threatened