

in the Cordillera Huayhuash) in just three hours. Corominas also soloed a new variation to the Northeast Face of Huascarán Norte (6,654m) in a 12-hour roundtrip from camp, starting right of the other routes on the face, joining the 1973 French Route, and going left for an M5 pitch just below the ridge, which he then followed to the summit.

Basque climbers Kepa Escribano and Fernando Ferreras opened a nine-pitch rock route, Matxinsalto (ED-), on the northwest face of Huamashraju (5,434m). The granite route reportedly climbs runout slabs and vertical cracks, has difficulties to 6b, and finishes via the north ridge to the top.

On La Esfinge, Escribano and Ferreras repeated the 2004 route Killa Quillay, climbing it mostly free at 7a+/7b. Also on Esfinge, Americans Brian McMahon and Josh Wharton made a free variation to the 2000 route, Riddle of the Cordillera Blanca. Their free version, which they called King of Thebes (V+ 5.12b/c), took them seven-and-a-half hours onsight; they used no pins or bolts. The pair also onsighted Cruz del Sur in seven hours, reporting it, as other parties have, to be severely overgraded (originally 5.13a) but of high quality. They'd climbed the 1985 Original Route in four-and-a-half hours onsight, and on Wharton's last day in Peru he made likely the first free solo, and certainly the fastest ascent, in 1:28.

Climate change continues to dramatically alter conditions in the Cordillera Blanca, as noted by many teams visiting the region. Josh Wharton writes of the north face of Huascarán Norte, from which he and Brian McMahon retreated (as did Steve House and Marko Prezelj a few days later) without setting foot on the face because of rockfall: "Someone will climb the north face again, but it will likely be a much different experience than Casarotto's. Most of the ice on the lower face is gone, only measly snow patches remain, and the ice routes that once existed on the wall's left flank seem to have entirely disappeared."

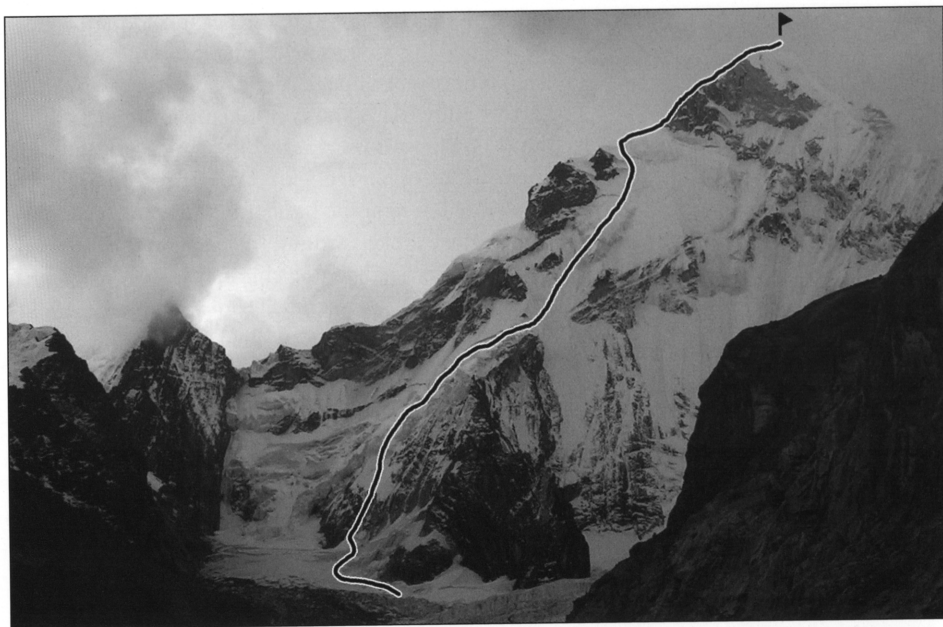
*Compiled with help from ANTONIO GÓMEZ BOHÓRQUEZ, LINDSAY GRIFFIN, and RICHARD HIDALGO*

## CORDILLERA HUAYHUASH

*Yerupaja Sur, Furieux Mais Romantiques.* The participants on our expedition were Benoît Montfort, François Nadal, Julien Laurent, and I. Intending to open a route on the west face of Siula Chico, we left on foot from Llamac, arriving at base camp on the banks of Laguna Sarapococha in three days. It took another day to reach advanced camp beneath the southern arête of Yerupaja Sur (6,515m). Regrettably, the face on Siula Chico was dry, and the glacier very cracked. We thus took refuge on the south face of Yerupaja Sur, where we saw a way to be opened. A short, technical gully marked the start of the route, which then continues up a hanging glacier, at the top of which we bivouacked (5,600m). The next day we climbed endless slopes of ice leading onto the west arête. To reach the summit we followed ice arêtes in the middle of the ice-flutings. We descended by rappel by another line to our bivy, then followed our route the rest of the way down. We left some pitons in place, but it would be useful to take pitons for a repeat.

PIERRE LABBRE, *France*

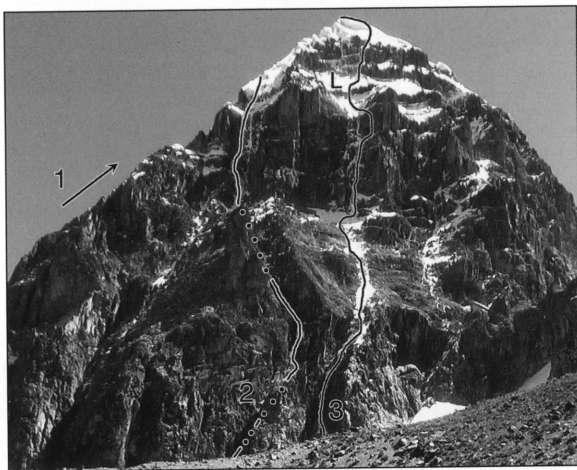
*Trapezio, Southeast Face Direct.* On July 10 Branko Ivanek, Miha Lamprecht, and I (all from Slovenia), and Aritz Monasterio (Spanish-Basque, living in Huaraz) completed the central route (800m, ED+ AI6 M5 A2) on the southeast face of Trapecio (5,644 m). We climbed the route in



Furieux Mais Romantiques on Yerupaja Sur. Although conflicting information exists regarding the exact locations of the 1965 and 1981 routes, the 2005 route likely shares some terrain with these lines. In 1977, Carrington and Rouse climbed the obvious ice face to the right. *Benoît Montfort*

single-push lightweight style, taking 12 hours to the summit and nine hours to descend the north face. The hardest part of the route was climbed by Jeff Lowe in 1985, but he retreated 250m below the top. He graded his 700m climb ED+ and considered it one of his hardest solo climbs.

After acclimatizing on Chopicalqui, we took the fastest approach to Trapecio, starting from the village of Queropalca. In two days we reached base camp at a small lake just below the face. Weather and conditions were good, although there was much less ice on the face than usual (from past photos). On July 10 we started from base camp at 3 a.m., and at about 5 a.m. entered the steep ice gully where the route begins. Overhanging rock soon stopped our rapid progress. We climbed it (M5 A2) before dawn. The rest of the lower part was



The southeast face of Trapecio: (1) South Spur (Dionisi-Ferraro-Malvasora, 1974). (2) SE Face (Donini-Tackle, 1986, to ridge). (3) SE Face Direct (Ivanek-Kozjek-Lamprecht-Monasterio, 2005). (L) Marks the appx highpoint of Jeff Lowe's 1985 solo. This face, shown here in July 2005, has melted so dramatically that the previous routelines barely resemble their original conditions. *Pavle Kozjek*



Pavle Kozjek leading an overhanging chimney to gain the upper icefields, high on Trapecio. *Miha Lamprecht*

easier, although there were further mixed parts before we reached the wide icefield halfway up the face.

The steeper upper part began with an excellent narrow gully (AI5) and continued with mixed climbing (M4-5), until we reached the hanging icefall that opens to the upper icefields. We noticed an old piton (probably Jeff's) at the base of it. Since the ice looked unstable, we looked around the edge on the right and found a steep overhanging chimney (UIAA 6-), which we climbed in two pitches. From the upper icefields another two steep pitches reached the east ridge, which leads to the top, where we stood at 5 p.m.

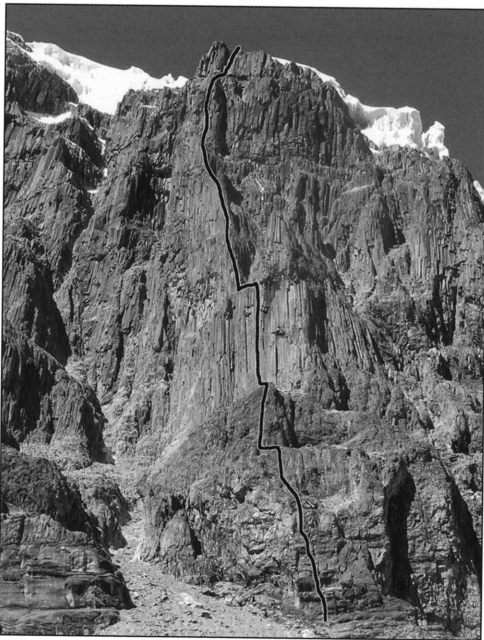
We descended the north face, in the night, for nine hours. The main problem was orientation. We found old slings and made four rappels before we got off of rock and ice and reached the grass on the northern slopes.

PAVLE KOZJEK, *Slovenia*

*Puscanturpa Sur, El Guardian de Pachamama, to top of rock wall.* Oriol Anglada (Catalunya) and I wanted to make our own contribution to the mountains. When we arrived in Lima, a mountain

guide mentioned the walls of Puscanturpa, describing their beauty and how little it got visited. After seeing a photo and speaking with a friend who had been there, we decided to direct our efforts there.

An exhausting three-day hike brought us to base camp (4,700m), a special place in a meadow directly below Puscanturpa Norte and the impressive north wall of Puscanturpa Sur (5,550m) [see note below]. Once we saw this wall, knowing there were no routes on it, we told ourselves it was here that we wanted to climb. With a lot of psyche and a hand drill, we opened the route in four days, from July 17 to 20. The route is 7c (6c+/A2 mandatory) with 16 pitches (670m), combining face and crack climbing on high-quality granodiorite that provided perfect dihedrals and some weaving between loose blocks, but mostly enjoyable climbing on good rock. [Of the two rock buttresses on Puscanturpa Sur, this route takes the more continuous, right-hand buttress.] Although



El Guardian de Pachamama, the only route on the wall. *Oriol Anglada*