



Jason Kruk following the crux pitch of the team's variation to to The Sound and the Fury, on Desmochada. *Will Stanhope*

Wilkinson returned later and freed the individual pitches they'd previously aided—Ed.] Colorado hardman Mike Pennings joined us for our first attempt, but we were stormed off four pitches up. After a day of rest Jason and I tried again, this time freeing to the summit. I fell once on the crux pitch, pulled the rope, and sent second try. Jason followed clean, and the whole route was climbed free for both the leader and the second, without jumars.

For me this trip was a dream come true. There was a gung-ho crew of climbers from all over the world, always

willing to roast a sheep and drink a few Quilmes cervezas. The weather was perfect, and the cracks were ice-free, perfect for free climbing. We tried hard, and we had fun.

WILL STANHOPE, *Canada*

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA, CHILE

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Cerro Escudo, Taste the Paine. In December 2007 and January 2008, with a minimum of rope fixing and no fixed camps, Dave Turner spent 34 continuous days on the east face of Cerro Escudo, soloing a new route (VII 5.9 A4+). Above the 1,200m wall, Turner continued up the technical, 300-vertical-meter ridge to the summit. In addition to impressive style and difficulty, Turner was the first to climb the face and continue to the summit. See Turner's feature earlier in this *Journal*.

Almirante Nieto, Calambrito, to sedimentary band. On January 31, 2008, Daniel Darrigrandi, Nacho Grez, and I approached the west face of Almirante Nieto from the Bader Valley, the most unknown big wall valley in Torres del Paine. Only a few expeditions have climbed routes in this valley, and many new routes and some first ascents await serious climbers.

Almirante Nieto is a huge mountain that has three west-facing walls, and we don't think any routes existed on the wall where we climbed. We departed base camp at 4 a.m. and took three hours to reach the base of the wall, heading up a slabby drainage with snowpatches to a prominent right-facing dihedral that looks like a banana. In the upper half, at the big roof we traversed to the right and continued to the base of the black rock. The climb ends where the sedimentary rock starts, as its poor quality makes it almost impossible and too risky to climb. We climbed six pitches (300m, 5.9+ R) on great granite, including finger cracks, offwidths and chimneys. It was a great climb, though many sections were unprotectable.

We descended by traversing right, and found a direct and easy way to rappel.

HERNAN JOFRE, *Chile*