

Olta Realet—North face of Castelletts



This face forms part of the Castelletts ridge and Olta Realet: this is the pointed peak on the left hand side of the ridge looking from Finestrat village. These climbs are on the north side of the ridge. The approach starts for the centre of the Village of Finestrat. In the photo above it is the pointed peak on the right.

The wall is situated in a very remote and beautiful valley. There is a great feeling tranquility here. The climbing has a similar feeling offering a great days adventure. Coupled with the rather wild approach you are sure to gain good memories here.

Starting from the cross roads as you enter the village of Finestrat, close to the School.

Follow the CV-578 road for 4.3 km until a very sharp turning on the right; this is just after the old cement works and half way down a steep hill and just before a bridge. Follow this narrow road for 4.7 km. Stop and park on a bend close to a chained track on the right. Walk down this track passing a cottage at the bottom. Walk onto the terraces in front, keeping to the edges and avoid walking on the actual ploughed parts, until you reach the start of ‘**The Forest from Hell**’. Search out the faint track going up hill which eventually wanders along the top of the broad ridge. Passing two hunting hides. Descend until the track levels out. There should be a marker here on a tree on the left. Follow the path down left into the barranca (Gully) below, steep at the bottom. Once in the bottom barranca proper walk right for a few metres until a steep path goes up the left bank. Now follow a faint track uphill until a white marker on a tree.

Descend immediately and go left onto a level terrace which continues through the trees.

Now look out for other white markers on trees which will mark the path through this large woodland. If you do go off the path it can be quite difficult. (This is particularly so in descent). Eventually you will reach the rocks which separate the two peaks. Now follow the path going right along the base of the rocks, which wanders up and down some what, the final slope ending at the base of the main wall. A cairn marks the start of the trad and sport route- Supervision, Deidro Edwards. Dancing Steps starts a little further on the right.

GPS. Start road. 38.57749 -0.2639937

Parking 38.60410 - 0.2419782

Supervision 180m. E4. 5c (6b) Trad

Start at the base of the wall by a large cairn.

The first route to be climbed on this wall. A fine expedition which climbs the left hand groove in the centre of the upper part of the wall. Fine climbing particularly the groove pitch. A full rack is required.

Approach after the walk through The Forest from Hell to a ledge below the centre of the wall. A cairn marks the start of both Supervision and Deidro Edwards.

Start: Next to a cairn in the centre of the wall and below a bolted line directly above the cairn

1. 40m. 4c. (1V+). Climb directly short walls and ledges, follow the line of bolts (this pitch was originally climbed with gear) later bolted to make it part of the Deidra Edwards route. Arriving at a large cave with bolt belays.
 2. 40m. 4c. (V) climb the arête on the left and then left to a small buttress (bolts) climb this and move right to ledge. Climb the slab, left of the chimney, and then the wall and crack above to a bolt belay. This pitch can be split at the larger ledge lower down (bolts)
 3. 25m. 5c. (6b). Climb the crack above the belay then climb onto the right wall (2 bolts) until it is possible to climb direct to small groove. Up this then ascend rightwards to the base of the main dihedral. Bolt belays.
 4. 25m. 5c. (6b). Climb the dihedral direct (3 bolts) to a small ledge half way up, on the left. Bolt belays.
 5. 20m. 5a (V) Climb direct then easily up to the large tree at the base of another groove.
 6. 35m. 5b. (6a) Climb up to the groove and up this until a move right reaches large ledges and a bolt belay.
- First ascent R and M Edwards October 14th 2014
Descents.

Abseil back down the route. 60m+ ropes required

Or, follow the arête to the summit and then down the other side to join the descent of the Castelletts ridge scramble. This ends in the Realet.

Diedro Edwards (Sport) (6c) 200m ***

A stunning sport route that is based on the right hand of two groove lines running up the centre of the wall.

Approach. After the walk through The Forest from Hell to a ledge below the centre of the wall. A cairn makes the start of both Supervision and Diedro Edwards.

Start: Next to a cairn and below a bolted line directly above the cairn

1. 35m 4+. From above the cairn, climb the short steep wall (bolts) to exit onto the slabby wall above. Follow bolts up a series of small ledges to a left facing corner, Climb the short corner and belay off bolts on the left (also a belay in the cave on the right).
2. 20m. 5. Climb the rib above the belay and left of the cave, to climb a slab moving right to belay on a ledge.
3. 15m. 6a. Step right from the belay and climb the short wall to belay on the next ledge above.
4. 25m. 6b+. A superb exposed pitch. From the ledge climb the scoop above exit out right and onto the exposed wall. Traverse right to a lefty facing corner and follow this to the belay point above.
5. 25m. 6b+. The Holdless Groove. Another superb pitch. Follow the crack line above to exit into a blank looking groove, climb the groove to the next belay point below the next major groove pitch.
6. 35m. 6c. The Diedro Edwards pitch. Stunning climbing. From the belay, follow the groove above to exit left to a hanging belay.
7. 15m. 5+. From the belay follow bolts up the wall above to reach a small belay ledge on the arete.
8. 30m. 4. Climb the rib above to reach a short final steeper wall that exits onto the summit ledge. Either walk off the back via cairns the reach the East side of the ridge, OR abseil back down the route.

First ascent Mark Edwards & Rowland Edwards 17/12/2014

Dancing Steps. 216m. E1. 5b. (6a) or AO 5+

A long and intricate route which wanders across the face of this wall giving some varied climbing, slabs, wall, grooves and cracks. A full rack will be required. All belays and abseils are bolted. By using one point of aid on the second pitch the grade can be evened out a bit.

Approach after the walk through The Forest from Hell to a ledge below the centre of the wall. A cairn makes the start of both Supervision and Deidro Edwards.

Start For Dancing steps walk to the right hand side of the ledge just left of a prominent large tree 15m higher up on the wall.

1. 23m. 4a. (IV) Ascend right (bolt) up slabby rock to the tree . Climb direct off the tree and then right to a small ledge and bolt belays .
2. 25m. 5b. (6a)-(ao 5+) Climb left and then back right to the base of the crack. Climb this until the overhang. (Bolt). Move left (bolt) and then left around the overhang above to reach the large belay ledge. Bolts.
3. 18m. 4c (V-) Climb the wall right of the belay (bolts) to reach a good ledge on the left.
4. 30m. 4c. (V). Move right into the cracks and follow these to a good ledge on the right.
5. 20m. 4b. (1V) Cross the ledge to the right and climb the corner crack and overhang, then up a short wall to good ledge and belay bolt.
6. 20m. 4a (1v). Climb across ledges to the foot of the slab. Climb it on the right then back left and up to a bolt belay.
7. 28m. 5a. (V). Climb over the small overhang and then directly to the overhang above, 4 bolts. Move right and then follow the fault line to reach belay bolts on the edge of the wall.
8. 34m. 5a (V). cross over to the crack on the far wall, climb this to a bolt. Move left and then direct to a boulder. Move left again then direct to a good ledge and bolt belays.

Climb onto the ledge above.

9. 18m. 5a (V). Climb slab (2 bolts) and then follow the crack to a bolt. Either lower off or move onto the large ledge to belay.

Descent. The abseil descent can be problematic but with good rope management is quite simple. One can also climb this route and then descend over the summit and back down the other side into Realet. If this is done climb down from the last belay into the gully which eventually lead to the walk off of the traverse of the ridge of Castelletts. Descend to join the walk off for the first section of the Castelletts ridge scramble. This is marked with a cairn situated on the col.

Olta Menor - North Face of the Castelletts



- 1. Supervision 180m. E4. 5c (6b) Trad *****
- 2. Diedro Edwards (Sport) (6c) 200m *****
- 3. Dancing Steps. 216m. E1. 5b. (6a) or AO 5+ *****

