

GARDA
TRENTINO

TRENTINO

45 YEARS ROCK MASTER CAR

**2 - 4
OCT
2026**

PRESS KIT

rockmaster.com

**VERTICAL
THRILL.**

Climbing Festival

ARCO 

PRESS KIT – ROCK MASTER

Welcome to **Rock Master**. Here you will find everything we have prepared for journalists, content creators, photographers and media professionals, so you can experience and tell the story of the most iconic climbing event on the scene, celebrating the **Vertical Thrill**.

Why accredit?

Because accreditation gives you full access to all our dedicated media services.

rockmaster.com/it/stampa/accredito-stampa

SPACES

These are the places designed to inspire and support you in your work during Rock Master.

Press Room

A quiet, professional space reserved for media professionals, where you can work on your articles, download images and videos or simply take a break.

Opening hours at the [Climbing Stadium](#):

Friday 2: 14:00–23:00 | **Saturday 3:** 10:00–23:00 | **Sunday 4:** 10:00–17:00

VIP Lounge (Climbing Village)

An exclusive space and the perfect place to recharge, enjoy a drink and take in the Climbing Village from the terrace.

Opening hours at the Climbing Village:

Friday 2: 14:00–24:00 | **Saturday 3:** 10:00–24:00 | **Sunday 4:** 10:00–15:00

VIP Area

A reserved and exclusive area for watching the competitions.

A dedicated, barriered-off space for media, offering a privileged view of the action.

Behind the Scenes

An immersive experience with the chance to get up close to some of the most renowned climbers.

Exclusive access during training sessions to experience Rock Master from every angle.

MATERIALS & INFORMATION

rockmaster.com/it/stampa

Everything you need to tell the story of Rock Master 2026.

Up-to-date photo and video material featuring the festival's highlights and behind-the-scenes moments.

Press kit with all the key information **(ITA – EN)**

Press releases providing practical access to news, details and in-depth information.

ROCK MASTER 20.20 Srl - SSD

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MUCH MORE

The Rock Master experience comes with a range of additional benefits for media professionals.

Welcome Box

Includes a lanyard with Press Pass, an exclusive Rock Master gadget, festival information and other surprises.

Food & Drink Vouchers

One meal voucher and one drink voucher to enjoy the food and drink selection and taste the specialities of Garda Trentino in **the Rock Master** Food Area.

Reserved Parking

A parking space less than a 10-minute walk from the venue, making it easier to get around during the event.

[Parcheggio Via dei Legionari Cecoslovacchi, 14, 38062 Arco TN](#)

INTERVIEWS OR COFFEE?

Have you ever wanted to find out what happens behind the scenes of the world's longest-running climbing festival?

We offer you the opportunity to arrange exclusive interviews with the organising committee and discover **Rock Master** through the eyes of those who live and breathe it 365 days a year. You can uncover stories and details about the festival that you might not otherwise discover, while experiencing the unique atmosphere of Garda Trentino.

Or why not meet some of the athletes for a coffee in the town centre, in true "Italian outdoor" style, and have a chat in a relaxed and informal setting?

EXPERIENCE THE "VERTICAL THRILL"

You will have free access to all **Rock Master** experiences, including the chance to experience the Vertical Thrill for yourself.

Take part in the **Rock Adventures**: guided experiences that let you try climbing first-hand.

Full list here: [Rock Adventure](#).

For information and free registration for the Rock Adventures, please contact:

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THE PROGRAMME

Climb the rock walls alongside expert guides, meet some of the discipline's greatest legends, join evening celebrations and explore 40 years of climbing history. This and much more awaits the public at **Rock Master** 2026, alongside the unmissable international competition, where the world's top climbers will battle for the title beneath Monte Colodri.

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

14:00–20:00	Rock Master Village: opening
14:00–19:00	Let's Play
15:00	Rock Master: opening ceremony
15:30–17:30	Rock Master: Duel practice
17:00	Climbing Espresso with Lynn Hill
18:00	Yoga for Climbers with Sara Grippo
19:00–19:30	Athlete presentation & bib draw
20:00–22:15	Rock Master: Lead Duel
22:15–00:00	Warm-up Party by Skylotec

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

9:00	Yoga for Climbers with Sara Grippo
10:00–20:00	Rock Master Village: opening
10:00–19:00	Let's Play
10:00–12:30	Clean-Up Rock Master
10:00–12:00	KO Boulder: practice
10:30	Yoga for Climbers with Giorgia Benecchi
11:00	Climbing Espresso with Yuji Hirayama
15:00–17:15	FASI Speed Record Hunters
17:30–19:00	Meet the Masters: 40 Years of Rock Master
20:00–22:00	KO Boulder
22:00	Signature Session
22:15–01:00	Rock Master Rewind by La Sportiva

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

09:00	Yoga for Climbers with Giorgia Benecchi
09:00–12:00	The Fun Bloc – Amateurs
10:00–18:00	Rock Master Village: opening
10:00–18:00	Let's Play
10:00	Climbing Espresso with Didier Raboutou and Robyn Erbesfield
12:00–13:30	Rock Master Legacy Talk – 40 Years of History
18:00	Goodbye Rock Master

Maggiori informazioni, dettagli e il programma sempre aggiornato sono disponibili visitando il sito: <https://rockmaster.com/it/programma>

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40 YEARS
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**40 YEARS OF
CLIMBING
IN ARCO**



40 YEARS OF HISTORY

From 2 to 4 October, **Rock Master** celebrates the special bond between the world's longest-running and most beloved climbing competition and the town of Arco in Garda Trentino.

This year, the capital of sport climbing reaches 40 years of competitions on its walls. To mark the occasion, **Rock Master** presents three days of spectacular events celebrating **history, legends and unforgettable icons**.

Alongside the exciting Lead Duel and KO Boulder competitions, the programme features a wide range of activities and initiatives for everyone. [Rock Master: la storia](#)

1986, the origins of Rock Master

In July 1986, the walls of Monte Colodri in Arco hosted **SportRoccia**, one of the first major international competitions of modern sport climbing.

From the following year, the competition moved beneath the Castle Rock and took the name **Rock Master**. In 1988, its home became the **Climbing Stadium**, one of the world's first permanent artificial climbing walls.

2000-2009, Climbing Stadium and Rock Junior

In 2000, the new Climbing Stadium was inaugurated, together with the launch of the **Lead Duel**, a new format created to combine sporting value, spectacle and television appeal, and to award the Rock Master title.

During the 2000s, Rock Master also organised **Rock Junior**, an international competition for Under 14s that featured young climbers such as Adam Ondra, Janja Garnbret and Stefano Ghisolfi.

In 2002, **KO Boulder** made its debut, becoming, together with the Lead Duel, one of the defining features of Rock Master.

2010-2019, World Championships and Youth World Championships

In 2011, Arco hosted the **World Climbing Championships**. New spaces and facilities were created for the occasion, including the service block and Boulder wall, turning the Climbing Stadium into a multidisciplinary venue.

In 2015 and 2019, Arco hosted the **Youth World Championships**. The 2019 edition made history as the largest ever, with more than 1,200 athletes taking part.

2020-2026, From the Olympic games to today

Climbing became part of the Olympic programme at the **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games**, held in 2021.

The design of the Speed wall developed in Arco became the model adopted by the **IFSC** for the official competition wall. The holds were also adopted by the international federation after being designed in Arco by Angelo Seneci and Jacky Godoffe.

In 2021, the Climbing Stadium became the **FASI Federal Training Centre**. Between 2024 and 2025, it was further renovated and expanded with facilities dedicated to Lead, Boulder and Speed.

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2026 EDITION

Rock Master continues to look to the future without ever forgetting its roots. Alongside the 16 champions competing this year, major figures from the event's past are also expected, together with the special **photographic exhibition "Vertical Legacy"**, a project tracing the evolution of climbing in Arco, from the origins of SportRoccia to the present day. Through champions, challenges and iconic moments, the exhibition tells the story of the deep connection between the town and the sport.

MAJOR GUESTS AT ROCK MASTER 2026

Some of the most prestigious chapters in the history of the event bear the names of the sport's greatest champions, protagonists of memorable battles that have thrilled audiences at the Climbing Stadium.

These athletes conquered some of the most fiercely contested editions and left an enduring mark on the event's roll of honour.

This year, **Rock Master** welcomes six special guests, who will take part in a number of events throughout the weekend:

Yuji Hirayama:

"I had the impression that to win the Rock Master was to be Master of Competition in our time between 88 to 2001. It was the birthplace of the sport climbing we now see in the Olympics."

A legend of Japanese climbing. Twice winner of the **Lead World Cup** (1998 and 2000) and of **Rock Master** in 1991 and 2001, he was also the first athlete in history to climb an 8c route on sight, an achievement that marked a turning point in rock climbing in 2004.

Robyn Erbesfield:

"When I hear Rock Master, I think of Arco—a town where climbing is woven into everyday life. Then I picture the packed crowd, the excitement, and the feeling that everyone is there because they genuinely love the sport."

The entire town of Arco embraces climbing. It's a place where climbers are truly celebrated, and that's what makes competing here so special."

During her career, the American climber competed in difficulty climbing and climbed extensively outdoors. She was the first true dominant force in the **Lead World Cup**, winning four editions, and triumphed at Rock Master in 1994.

Lynn Hill:

"When I hear Rock Master, it brings back many nostalgic memories of the first International climbing competitions. I considered this competition as important to climbing as the Wimbledon tournament has been to tennis."

With five Rock Master victories – from the first edition in 1987 through 1990 and again in 1992 – the American climber is considered one of the strongest and most influential climbers in history.

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A pioneer in a discipline dominated by men at the time, she achieved a number of memorable milestones. In 1993, she became the first person to free-climb **The Nose on El Capitan in a single day**, as well as the first woman to climb an 8b+ route.

François Legrand

A legendary champion who won Rock Master four times (1990, 1994, 1997 and 1998). The French athlete also achieved numerous prestigious victories during his career, including five **Lead World Cup** titles, helping to redefine the standards of the discipline during the 1990s.

Didier Raboutou

Winner of Rock Master in 1989 and one of the pioneers of French sport climbing, he is married to Robyn Erbesfield.

In 2001, the couple welcomed Brooke Raboutou, who followed in her parents' footsteps to become one of the strongest climbers of her generation – and a Rock Master winner herself.

Muriel Sarkany

A five-time **Lead World Cup** winner between 1997 and 2003, Sarkany also claimed three consecutive Rock Master victories in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

She was an athlete who remained a major force on the international circuit for more than a decade.

Don't miss the chance to see these athletes back on the wall and meet them in person:

[Meet the Masters: 40 anni Rock Master](#)

CLIMBING ESPRESSO

A coffee and a chat with the legendary guests who have shaped the history of Rock Master and climbing.

The sessions will feature Lynn Hill and Yuji Hirayama, as well as Didier Raboutou and Robyn Erbesfield alongside their daughter Brooke Raboutou.

ROCK MASTER LEGACY TALK – 40 YEARS OF HISTORY

A look back at 40 years of sport climbing history through stories, memories and anecdotes, bringing the six special guests of this edition together on stage with Adam Ondra.

A meeting between generations, revisiting the moments that have shaped the history of the sport and discovering, through the voices of those who lived them, how the world of climbing has evolved.

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THE STARS OF ROCK MASTER



THE ROCK MASTER 2026 LINE-UP

The 16 elite climbers taking part range from some of the sport's most decorated champions to the next generation of rising talents. Here is the Rock Master 2026 line-up.

Anna Maria Apel (GER, 2005)

Fresh, explosive and ready to perform, young Anna Maria Apel returns to thrill the Rock Master crowd after reaching the podium in last year's KO Boulder.

- 4-time German national champion
- 2025 World Championship finalist
- Climbed King of the Bongo, an 8b+/c route
- 3rd place in the 2025 KO Boulder

Brooke Raboutou (USA, 2001)

The daughter of two Rock Master winners, Robyn Erbesfield and Didier Raboutou, Brooke Raboutou has made elegance and explosiveness her trademark.

- Olympic silver medallist
- 13 World Cup podiums (1 gold)
- First woman in the world to climb Excalibur, a 9b+ route
- Winner of the Lead Duel in 2025

Héloïse Doumont (BEL, 1998)

A Lead specialist, Héloïse Doumont has been part of the international circuit since 2013, standing out for her determination and passion when taking on every challenge.

- Two World Cup finals, in Madrid and Koper
- 2-time Belgian Lead champion
- Silver medallist at the 2026 European Lead Championships

Laura Rogora (ITA, 2001)

One of Italy's brightest Lead climbing talents, Laura Rogora combines talent and determination on the world's biggest stages.

- 2-time European champion
- Reigning Italian Lead champion
- 9-time Italian national Lead champion
- Third woman in the world to climb a 9b+ route
- First woman in the world to climb Ultimate Sacrifice on sight, an 8c+ route

Jessica Pilz (AUT, 1996)

Her outstanding international results have established Jessica Pilz as one of the strongest climbers of her generation, combining strength, explosiveness and experience.

- Olympic bronze medallist
- 2-time World Champion
- 24 World Cup podiums (3 golds)
- 3 Rock Master appearances

Lučka Rakovec (SLO, 2001)

A Lead specialist, Lučka Rakovec takes to the Rock Master stage for the first time, ready to surprise both the crowd and her fellow athletes.

- 2019 European Champion
- Bronze medallist at the 2026 European Lead Championships

Hana Koike (JPN, 2005)

A Japanese Lead climber, Hana Koike is one of the youngest competitors in this edition, but certainly not one to underestimate.

She returns to Arco after competing at the 2019 Youth World Championships.

- Silver medallist at the 2019 Arco Youth World Championships (Lead)
- Bronze medallist at the 2019 Arco Youth World Championships (Boulder)
- 2026 World Climbing Series finalist

Aleksandra Totkova (BUL, 2005)

A young talent from Bulgaria, Aleksandra Totkova has stood out since the early years of her career, quickly establishing herself on the international climbing scene.

- 2 Lead World Cup podiums
- 2022 Youth Lead World Champion
- 2024 Youth Lead European Champion
- First Bulgarian woman to climb a 9a route

Adam Ondra (CZE, 1993)

Considered one of the strongest climbers in the world, Adam Ondra is a legend who has helped write important chapters in the history of climbing and Rock Master, where he is also an official Ambassador.

- 5-time World Champion
- 2-time European Champion
- First climber in the world to free-climb Silence, a 9c route
- 8 Rock Master appearances, the most successful climber in the event's history

Filip Schenk (ITA, 2000)

After reaching the podium in both Rock Master events in 2025, one of Italy's strongest climbers, Filip Schenk, returns beneath Monte Colodri with his sights set even higher.

- Youth World and European Champion
- Reigning Italian Lead champion
- Bronze medallist at the 2025 Chamonix Lead World Cup
- 5th at the Koper World Climbing Series Lead event
- Winner of the Rock Master Lead Duel

Giovanni Placci (ITA, 2001)

From promising Italian sport climber to major contender, Giovanni Placci returns to Rock Master after making his debut last year, bringing even more confidence and experience.

- Reigning Italian Lead champion
- Italian Lead Cup winner
- 2026 European Lead silver medallist
- Finalist at the Innsbruck World Climbing Series event

Yannick Flohé (GER, 1999)

Winner of the Rock Master Trophy in 2024 and reigning KO Boulder champion, Yannick Flohé has a talent for winning over the Arco crowd with his creative and unexpected moves.

- Combined World Champion
- One World Cup gold and one bronze
- Climbed Excalibur, a 9b+ route, in 2026
- Rock Master winner

Stefano Ghisolfi (ITA, 1993)

A leading specialist in Lead climbing, Stefano Ghisolfi is one of the best-known faces of Italian climbing, both on artificial walls and at outdoor crags.

- 2021 World Champion
- 14 World Cup podiums (6 golds)
- 2-time Italian national Lead champion
- First climber in the world to free-climb Excalibur, a 9b+ route

Luka Potočar (SLO, 2001)

A Slovenian Lead specialist, Luka Potočar combines power and technique on the wall, standing out for his determination and resilience.

- Silver medallist at the 2021 World Lead Championships
- 2022 overall Lead World Cup winner
- Silver medallist in Chamonix at the 2026 World Climbing Series

Shion Omata (JPN, 2006)

The youngest climber in the Rock Master 2026 line-up, Shion Omata specialises in Lead and is set to make his Rock Master debut, relying on agility and speed.

- Winner of the 2024 Asian Championships
- 2nd in the 2024 overall Lead World Cup standings

Sascha Lehmann (SUI, 1998)

An experienced Swiss climber, Sascha Lehmann returns to Rock Master after several years away.

With a background in gymnastics, he brings flexibility and considerable strength to his climbing.

- 2020 European Lead Champion
- 2024 European Lead Champion
- 2024 European Combined silver medallist

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COMPETITIONS



COMPETITIONS

At **Rock Master** 2026, the 16 top climbers will face two established and adrenaline-fuelled challenges: the **Lead Duel** and **KO Boulder**.

LEAD DUEL – The spectacular Soul of Rock Master

In the Lead Duel, two athletes at a time take on two identical, parallel routes, with the aim of reaching the stop button first.

Standing between each climber and glory is a 25-metre route on the famous overhanging wall of the Climbing Stadium, to be completed at maximum speed.

Head-to-head elimination rounds ensure that only the strongest performers can make it through to the battle for the title.

[Rock Master: il duello lead](#)

KO BOULDER – Pure adrenaline on every Problem

KO Boulder unfolds through intense elimination rounds on technically demanding boulder problems set by the **Rock Master** route setters on the newly renovated wall at the Climbing Stadium.

The ranking is determined by the height reached and the number of attempts made. After each round, top climbers are eliminated until three finalists remain to battle it out for the podium in a close-fought final.

[Rock Master: KO Boulder](#)

SIDE EVENTS

Spectacular competitions and world-class climbers will set the atmosphere alight, but there is much more to **Rock Master** 2026.

FASI SPEED RECORD HUNTERS

The brand-new **FASI Speed Record Hunters** brings Italy's best national team climbers to **Rock Master** 2026.

The Climbing Stadium provides the backdrop for the country's top Speed athletes, all with one goal: to set a new Italian record in the discipline.

Head-to-head battles on the 15-metre wall demand speed, precision and quick reactions. There is no room for hesitation, with just a few seconds deciding who moves on in this high-intensity test of power and determination.

THE FUN BLOC

This amateur Boulder meeting is the perfect opportunity for sport climbing enthusiasts to take on the same walls used by the world's top climbers at the Climbing Stadium.

The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming, with just the right touch of healthy competition.

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The Fun Bloc welcomes beginners, newcomers and experienced enthusiasts alike to try their hand at bouldering in the **Home of Climbing**.

ROCK ADVENTURES

Rock Adventures bring the three-day Rock Master programme to life with a special focus on beginners, climbing enthusiasts who want to get started and younger generations.

Rock Adventure

Crag Calling powered by Skylotec

An experience designed for adult beginners who want to get to grips with the basics of sport climbing.

Mini Climber Maxi Fun!

An experience where children can have fun on the wall, exploring routes, holds and climbing moves at the Climbing Stadium.

Climbing with the Champ

An experience for adults where outdoor climbing enthusiasts can take to the wall with a very special climbing partner: none other than Stefano Ghisolfi.

Colodri Calling powered by Skylotec

An experience for anyone who wants to tackle one of Arco's most iconic via ferratas, accompanied by expert mountain guides.

A different way to experience the vertical world, even if it is your first time.

Multi Pitch training with Mmove

An experience for climbers who are ready to look a little higher.

This guided outing with UIAGM-certified mountain guides is designed for those who want to take their first steps into the world of multi-pitch climbing and learn the basics of moving on a wall with greater confidence and awareness.

CLIMBING VILLAGE

The Climbing Village is where the passion for sport climbing comes together. A welcoming space where ideas take shape.

Partners & Exhibitors

The **Rock Master** Climbing Village Expo Area is the perfect place to discover the latest developments in the industry, explore new technological innovations and experience first-hand the quality and research behind the products on display.

Food

The **Rock Master** food and drink offering is just what you need to make every climbing day complete.

From traditional Trentino specialities to quick snacks, there is something to suit every taste.

Kids

Younger generations are also at the heart of **Rock Master** because climbing is a sport that can be discovered from an early age.

The Kids Area welcomes children to a dedicated climbing wall where they can get to know holds and routes, while slacklining and skateboarding activities help them develop balance and coordination alongside expert guides.

A SPECTACLE CALLED ROCK MASTER

The special 2026 edition of **Rock Master** is being developed down to the smallest detail by the Rock Master 20.20 organising committee, led by President Stefano Bresciani, together with Garda Dolomiti SpA Tourist Board.

Thanks to the commitment and collaboration of the two teams, an extensive organisational effort comes together to create a spectacle built around sport, excitement and a deep passion for climbing.

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**VERTICAL
THRILL ALL
YEAR ROUND**



VERTICAL THRILL ALL YEAR ROUND

Arco is an international reference point for sport climbing.

The extraordinary variety of its walls, their excellent condition, the beauty of the surrounding landscape and a particularly favourable climate have made Garda Trentino an essential destination for climbers and outdoor enthusiasts from around the world.

Alongside Rock Master, a passion for climbing has become deeply rooted throughout Garda Trentino, turning Arco into the iconic **Home of Climbing** and one of the world's symbolic climbing destinations.

It is a deep connection shared by the international climbing community, which has looked to this area as a reference point for decades.

Many of the sport's greatest champions have climbed on the walls of Arco, with some of them, including Adam Ondra, taking their first steps in international competitions here.

For many athletes, Arco has become a true home, including Ondra himself and Stefano Ghisolfi, who has lived here permanently since 2021.

This connection is strengthened by the presence of a state-of-the-art Climbing Stadium, now the federal training centre of the **Federazione Arrampicata Sportiva Italiana (FASI)** and a training base for the national teams and many of Italy's top climbers.

THE CRAGS

Arco is not the only climbing destination in Garda Trentino. The entire area attracts both experienced climbers and beginners.

With 24 crags, Garda Trentino is a popular destination for outdoor sports, offering days of climbing, enjoyment, sustainability and, above all, safety.

The walls cater for all levels of difficulty. Starting with easier routes, climbers can progress all the way to **Excalibur (9b+)** and **Erebor (9b)**, routes first climbed by Stefano Ghisolfi and recognised among the most challenging in the world.

OUTDOOR PARK

Launched in 2009, **Outdoor Park Garda Trentino** is a project focused on sustainability in outdoor sports and activities, reflecting the spirit of Garda Trentino.

Its goal is to offer the best possible sporting experience while preserving and monitoring the trails, via ferratas and climbing crags of Garda Trentino.

The project, unique in Europe, promotes a set of guidelines for responsible behaviour and respect, turning these principles into concrete and practical initiatives

I RANGERS DELL'OUTDOOR PARK GARDA TRENTINO

To ensure that routes through the forests and mountains of Garda Trentino are properly managed, the **Garda Rangers** are professional teams working every day to protect the area's outdoor heritage.

They carry out specific checks and, whenever necessary, intervene on every trail, crag and via ferrata included in the Outdoor Park.

This ensures that every route offers the best possible experience together with the highest possible level of safety.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **23 climbing crags** are part of **Outdoor Park Garda Trentino**, alongside **61 MTB routes**, **3 via ferratas** and **31 hiking trails**. Together, they form a unique outdoor heritage designed to let visitors experience the area across different seasons and through a wide range of activities.
- Beneath Monte Colodri and around 200 metres from the centre of Arco, the **Climbing Stadium** has been the federal training centre of the **Federazione Arrampicata Sportiva Italiana** since 2021. It was renovated and expanded in 2024 and now offers **1,364 square metres of climbing surface**.
- In Drena, near Arco, you will find one of the world's most difficult climbing routes: **Excalibur**. First climbed by Stefano Ghisolfi in 2023, the 9b+ route has since been climbed by Scottish climber Will Bosi, Brooke Raboutou and Yannick Flohé – all major protagonists of Rock Master.

**FEEL THE
VERTICAL
THRILL**