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# BOULDER FESTIVAL VAL DI MELLO

In early May 2016, a handful of AACZ bouldering enthusiasts attended the Melloblocco international bouldering meeting at Val di Mello in Italy. Boulders of various sizes and difficulties were climbed, scattered in a lush alpine valley. The morning sun beamed down on yoga exercises on a massive boulder, a run

across the awakening valley, or a chocolate croissant in the meadow. A couple of club activists also made sure to explore some of the overwhelming granite walls surrounding the valley, which are surely worth another visit.

*Saule Simute*

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## ADVENTURES WITH A FRENCH TOUCH IN VAL D'AROLLA

In September 2016 seven Huttli decided to confront the changing weather of the ending summer and do a Hochtour weekend close to Arolla. Their goal was to reach the Mt. Blanc de Cheillon (3870m). Three of the club members (Karen, Philip and Josquin) decided to leave on Friday, walking into the night with heavy packs up to a very comfortable looking meadow overlooking a little river at around 2500m of altitude. In this pastoral setting, the trio dined on cheap Chinese soups before bivvying under a perfectly clear sky without moon. After a brief night, only disturbed by a few falling stars, and a breakfast composed of couscous and "Studentenfutter" mix with a dash of olive oil, the mountaineers went off to conquer La Lulette (3548m) by the normal route under perfect weather conditions. The mountain did not present any difficulties, as one would expect by a mountain celebrated throughout France by the

famous bedtime song "La Lulette, gentille La Lulette [...]". The summit was as little a challenge to reach as the view was spectacular: it offered a stunning view over three countries and mountains as powerful as the Mont-Blanc, the Dent-Blanche or the Matterhorn.

The afternoon was spent relaxing in the sun at the Cabane des Dix. The time flew by thanks to a few beers, local cheese and sausages and the recently installed zip-line (which was clearly not in line with any safety regulations). In the evening, the trio set up camp in a lunar setup, just a bit higher than the hut, and was joined by Ulla and Loïc. The quintet prepared a risotto with mushrooms, wine and parmesan, making from this dinner at high-altitude a real haute-cuisine event. The final two, Alessandro and James, arrived at the camp just after dinner to complete the international group. The next morning, before dawn, Alessandro, James and Philip