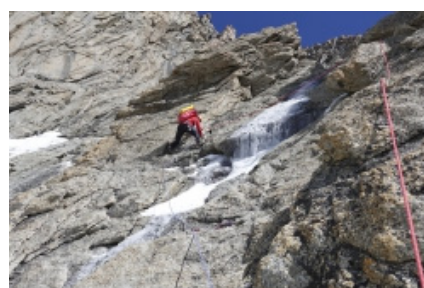


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Perfect Storm, big new climb on Mont Blanc by Simon Richardson and Michael Rinn

23.08.2018 di Planetmountain

Simon Richardson reports about the first ascent of Perfect Storm, a new 700m climb established together with Michael Rinn over 8 days up Pointe Louis Amédée on the Miage Face on the Italian side of Mont Blanc (4807 m).

Simon Richardson negotiating awkward mixed ground low down on Perfect Storm. Despite giving the face two days to clear after bad weather, the route was surprisingly icy.

Photo by [Michael Rinn](#)

In all likelihood the first new route added to Pointe Louis Amédée in almost 3 decades and "the realisation of a 25 year dream to climb on the face followed by a full traverse of Mont Blanc." These are the credentials of Perfect Storm, established recently on Mont Blanc by the formidable Simon Richardson - Michael Rinn climbing partnership. The duo, which in 2016 had established a new route up the Grandes Jorasses, climbed a 700m pillar up the NW Face of Pointe Louis Amédée, to the right of the Miage Face recognised as being "one of the most remote and difficult-to-reach parts of the mountain." After completing the route, the pair traversed Mont Blanc, spending 8 days on the mountain in all.

Perfect Storm by Simon Richardson

Our route is called *Perfect Storm* (700m, ED1, 6a+) and lies on the North-West Face of Pointe Louis Amédée to the right of the Miage Face. After a two-day approach and reconnaissance from the Quintino Sella Bivouac Hut, we started climbing on 12 August up the triangular pillar between the ice lines of *Himalamiage* (750m, ED1 Patrick Gabarrou, Giorgio Passino 18-19/01/1989) and *Fanta Couloir* (700m, TD Gian Carlo Grassi, Enrico Tessera 21-22/04/1984).

We followed a zigzag line on the right side of the pillar for nine ropelengths (4 and 5) keeping right of a deep black gully. When the pillar steepened, we ran into several impasses and thought we would have to descend, but eventually three difficult pitches (6a+) led to easier ground and the upper spur where the granite transitions to schist.

We followed the well-defined spur on solid rock (4 and 5) for six pitches to where the way was blocked by a smooth vertical tower. We bivouacked here, uncertain of the way ahead, but next morning we bypassed the tower by making an abseil and then climbing an overhanging corner to easier ground. From here, 100m of easier climbing led to the summit of Pointe Louis Amédée (4460m).



Michael Rinn leading one of the 6a+ pitches on the granite section of the pillar on Perfect Storm, Pointe Louis Amédée, Mont Blanc

Photo by [Simon Richardson](#)

By now it had started to snow, and we climbed the Brouillard Ridge in a storm (the predicted bad weather came in 12 hours early). Conditions on top of Mont Blanc were extreme, and we descended to the Vallot Bivouac Hut on a compass bearing just as it was becoming dark in a whiteout with slopes avalanching around us.



Michael Rinn on the upper pillar approaching the bivouac during the first ascent of Perfect Storm, Pointe Louis Amédée, Mont Blanc

Photo by [Simon Richardson](#)



We spent two nights in the Vallot Hut, and on 15 August we continued by traversing the Aiguille du Bionnaissay to the Durier Hut. Next day we traversed the Domes de Miage and we descended to Les Contamines the following morning concluding our eight-day long adventure.

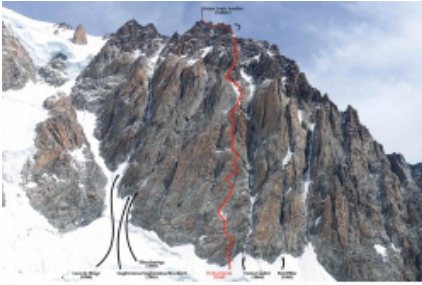
According to Luca Signorelli, *Perfect Storm* is the first new route added to the face since *Himalamiage* in 1989.

Link: [FB Simon Richardson](#)

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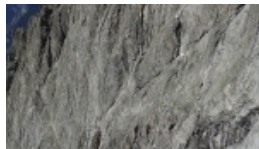
The line of Perfect Storm, established up Pointe Louis Amédée by Simon Richardson and Michael Rinn

Photo by [Simon Richardson](#)



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 Interview with Simon Richardson who, together with Michael Rinn, made the first ascent of Diamond Ridge (1600m, 5c, AO) from 28 - 30 July 2016. This new alpine climb breaches the SSE Face of Grandes Jorasses (Mont Blanc massif).



30.08.2017
 Canada's Monarch Mountain SW Pillar first ascent by Simon Richardson and Michael Rinn
 The trip report by Simon Richardson who from 4 - 6 August together with Michael Rinn made the first ascent of Game of Thrones (ED2, 1250m), the first route up the South-West Face of Monarch Mountain (3572m) in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia in Canada.

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