



## COL MARGHERITA FREERIDE PARK

Skiing on fresh snow is a fantastic experience, and a growing number of people are joining the ranks of snow lovers who like to adventure off the beaten slopes in search of new thrills. In fact, **freeride** is not only the trendiest winter sport right now; it is a phenomenon which is enjoying tremendous growth. It's **a new way of thinking about and interpreting the natural spaces the mountains have to offer**, where you can ski in complete freedom, far from the crowded slopes, and put your style and personal skills to the test on breathtaking descents.

Freeride means fun in continuous evolution. This is one of the reasons why it is ever more popular, especially for younger fans who want to leave their mark by carving fresh tracks in the snow. In the Passo San Pellegrino-Falcade ski area, the **Col Margherita has become a hot destination for off piste fans** and is often chosen as the venue for any number of International competitions where freeride is the main event.



For this reason the Province of Trento, the Community Moena, the Moena Police Academy, Alpine Rescue and Local Lift Operators, got together to introduce a **pilot project** aimed at attracting riders through an educational course along the slopes contained in the **Col Margherita Freeride Park**, which would provide all the appropriate support to anyone who wants **to enjoy this fantastic sport in the utmost safety**.

To this goal measures have been taken to:

- Define the borders of the route with appropriate directional signs, that is to say, numerated plaques and spheres that allow the skier to supply precise information regarding location in case of emergency;
- Strategically placed, up-to-date, informational placards with information regarding the level of avalanche risk, local weather forecasts, proper behaviour, and minimal personal requirements to keep in mind while descending;
- The installation of an ARTVA-approved entry gate;
- Certified personnel charged with verifying conditions of avalanche risk, insufficient snow or poor visibility, any of which could impede safety along the route.
- If the gate is open, timely rescue operations, managed in association with the Alpine Rescue Crew and Moena Alpine State Police are guaranteed.





Col Margherita is also home to an **ARTVA training camp**, a fully equipped area managed in association with the Arabba ARPAV and CAI associations. Here you can receive proper instruction on how to use this indispensable safety device which will signal a skier's personal location in case of avalanche.

**Every morning the Operations Manager executes a territorial survey** which takes into consideration personal experience, specific knowledge of the local area and certain standard parameters such as the local weather forecast, the snow forecast and local avalanche advisories, weekly stratigraphic profiles, measurements taken from the snow-metric field, evaluation of the snow surface at the summit and direct observation of the snow and weather conditions. All of these parameters are used to **evaluate the risk level along the route** and are then communicated to Head of Security.



**Every day the following measurements are taken:**

- Air temperature;
- Snow mass at the base;
- Snow height;
- Snow temperature at 10 cm;
- Snow temperature at 30 cm;
- Snow density;
- Penetration of the probe.

In case of **excessive danger or consistent and prolonged snowfall, Col Margherita Freeride Park will be closed** and users will be advised via the informative panels located at the entrance to the valley station for the Col Margherita cable lift. In particular, whenever the Operations Manager believes there could be a real and imminent risk of avalanche he could decide to wait for the dangerous conditions to subside or enact eventual restructure operations using a helicopter.

**The experience gained in these first few months of the 2012/2013 winter season has been extremely positive.** The Col Margherita Freeride Park, thanks to a period of abundant snowfall and prevailing good weather, is attracting increasing and solid interest on behalf of riders from all over Italy and abroad. Workers and operators are quite satisfied and the hope is that the number of users will continue to grow, which would add lustre to the entire Val di Fassa resort as well as Dolomiti Superski.





#### How to reach the Col Margherita Freeride Park

The route can easily be reached with the Col Margherita cable lift and riders can also contact the Ski and Snowboard Schools operating in the Passo San Pellegrino-Falcade ski area to ask for assistance from expert guides.

#### Technical Specs:

Starting altitude: 2513 m

Arrival altitude: 1874 m

Difference: 600 m

Operating hours: all day from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Route Supervisor: Mr. Sisto Tura

Rentals: between Falcade and Passo San Pellegrino there are several shops and rental stores that have all the materials necessary for the descent.

Useful Information: we strongly recommend the use of a helmet, ARTVA and probe; always check the proper functioning of the ARTVA at the starting gate and pay attention to posted signs located both at the start and the arrival of the cable lift.



Col Margherita Freeride Park is also on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Col-Margherita-Freeride-Park/171304116296375?ref=hl>

