

C11. PASSAGE D'ARGENTIERE 3620 m

West side

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| ▶ Start/End: 3300/1240 | ▶ Time: 5h00 |
| ▶ V +/ V -: 920/2980 | ▶ Ski: 2.2 |
| ▶ Aspect: west | ▶ Alpine: F |
| ▶ Slope: sect. 30° | ▶ Exposure: 1 |
| ▶ 36300T or 1344 + 1345 | ▶ 113 |

From the Grands Montets, follow **C3** and ascend the Argentière Glacier. Start ascending the Tour Noir Glacier via its right bank then up the center. Staying in the fall line, top out at the Col d'Argentière but note that the Passage d'Argentière has less obstructed views. During the descent, at around 2600 m stay to skier's left of the glacier to pass through a crevasse zone and then head left to meet up with the ski runs that bring you quickly back to Lognan.

C11.1. Rouges du Dolent Glacier (ski: 3.1).

These two routes are among the most popular of the Mont Blanc range, and for good reason. Neighbors, but on two different glaciers, both offer a total of over 3000 m of skiing for less than 1000 m of climbing. All this takes place in the sun and on snow that sometimes comes up as early as mid-winter, whe-

C12. COL DU TOUR NOIR 3535 m

Améthystes glacier

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| ▶ Start/End: 3300/1240 | ▶ Time: 5h00 |
| ▶ V +/ V -: 840/2900 | ▶ Ski: 2.2 |
| ▶ Aspect: south | ▶ Alpine: F |
| ▶ Slope: sect. 30° | ▶ Exposure: 1 |
| ▶ 36300T or 1344 + 1345 | ▶ 112 |

From the Grands Montets, follow **C3** to the Argentière Glacier's plateau. Head up the right bank of the Améthystes Glacier. (You pass by the foot of the Aiguille d'Argentière's Y couloir; **C13**). A false plateau leads to the foot of the final short pitch that leads to the pass. On the descent meet up with **C11** at around 2750 m.

C12.1. Col Sup. du Tour Noir: softens up late in the day (ski : 5.1).

C12.2. Col Sup. du Tour Noir: traverse (ski: 5.2, see **E12**).

reas the opposite side of the basin, from the Triolet to the Verte, is black, both from the everlasting winter shadows and the exposed ice to which snow just does not stick at this time of year. In the same register, on the right bank of the Argentière Glacier, the Col du Chardonnet (C15) is of similar appeal.

