



Quink – Pyromania variation, *, 17**

Approx. 200m up the broad gully on the true left (i.e. the North Wall) in between the routes Hot House and Quink there is a 8m wide rectangular pillar which is part of the mail wall but projects about 1.5m out from the rest of the wall. On either side of the pillar there are open books (Quink goes up the right hand open book) but in the middle runs a jagged edged, off-width sized crack with a couple of chock stones. This crack is situated behind a large tree with two separate man-sized trunks – one extending horizontally away from the wall and the other at a 45 degree angle upwards. It is not known whether the first pitch has been climbed before but the remainder of the pitches follows a variation to Quink which lowers the original Quink grade (described as F2+) somewhat. Being on the North wall the route gets direct sun and can be very hot – climbing the route is best on cool days.

There is an oldish ab point (tat, several slings and maillons) at the stance above the first pitch which makes this excellent and highly recommended first pitch (at this grade) as an option to do end-of the day when you have time left but not enough for a full route – bring some fresh tat along if that your plan.

The North wall seems to have been neglected in recent times (probably due to the heat and lack of RDs). This route will allow those that have not climbed high up in the broad gully on the North wall an opportunity to sample this part of Wilgepoort. Please note that the North wall has more loose blocks than the main face and extra care should be taken when exploring.

A good clean and well-protected route with a different perspective to the usual climbs at Wilgepoort.

Pitch 1 - Pyromania pitch (16, +- 35m): climb the jagged off-width crack using the face and chock stones up to the crux approx. 4m from the ground with a move over a wedged flake in the crack (good hold) which blocks it. Above the crux you have a choice of a nettle bush and large loose block but its best to avoid the block. Continue more or less straight up into an chimney which peters out into an open book (joining Ouink's first pitch here) to eventually end up towards the left on the top of the pillar where a final mantle bring you to a wide ledge that extends approximately 60m to the right (the ledge and the faces above forms a prominent recess / amphitheatre that is clearly visible from the opposite side of the gulley).

Pitch 2 (12, +- 20m): Move 5m right and ascended the easy arête tending leftwards and up to a stance at a tree (shade!) left of and below a layback crack in an open book that faces towards the top of the gulley. An (harder 17/18-ish) alternative which is the second pitch from Ouink is to follow the open book 2 meters to the left of the stance up a face and then slightly right to the same belay or to continue up to the base of the tree described in pitch 4.

Pitch 3 (17, +-8m): layback up the well protected open book to stance a couple of meters to the right between a short blocky detached pillar (more shade!) and the main face (this avoids the rope drag over the edge of the open book). Note that pitch 2 and 3 may be combined but the rope drag over the top edge of the layback may be too great unless you follow the original Ouink pitch 2 which is harder and continues up the steep face above the layback to the bottom of the tree mentioned in pitch 4 below).

Pitch 4 (17, +- 25m): The main feature (which is visible from a vantage point across the gulley) in the middle of this pitch is a tree and shaded open book which is used by the eagles as a roost. Below the tree the bird's white droppings stains the left side of the open book (this white stained corner is clearly visible from the opposite side of the gulley on the left hand edge of the scoop / amphitheatre). From the gap between the block and the face move up an open book on the right and directly below the tree which faces towards the river. A couple of meters up move left onto the exposed arête immediately below the roosting tree to gain a small ledge at the base of the tree and the white stained face. Climb up behind the tree to gain a shallow but well-protected chimney (crux). Make a stance a couple of meters up at the top of a wide pillar where a number of boulders are strewn about. Note: There is no distinct abseil point here but it might be an option to bring a couple of meters of tat and ab down from a couple of the blocks from here to avoid the loosish 5'Th pitch.

Pitch 5 (14, +- 30m): Several options to the top are possible but beware of loose blocks. The most pleasing line to follow is to move diagonally left at first and then more or less straight up over a large flake balanced on a couple of smaller blocks.

Decent: Ab off from the trees into the amphitheatre or walk a couple of hundred meters to the left closer to the top of the broad gulley and into and down the broad gulley.

Pitch 1 variation climbed on 6 July 2014 by Dean van der Merwe and David Mitchell. Ouink was first climbed in Sept 1975 by Eckhard Druschke and Jerry Linke