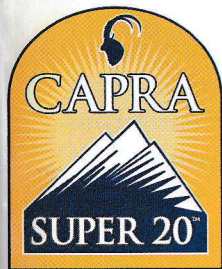


MILESTONE

DAVID NOGAREDA



Life member David Nogareda (Spain) achieved his Capra World Slam Super 20 in November 2019 with a Chartreuse chamois from France and sent the following report:

My hunt for Chartreuse chamois in November 2019 actually began in the middle of the equatorial forest in Cameroon in May 2015. I was going there with my friend **Jan Dams** to hunt the forest elephant and the sitatunga while my teammate wanted a forest buffalo and a sitatunga. On our arrival by small plane, to our great surprise we were greeted by **Jean-François** in Catalan in the middle of the forest while being surrounded by pygmies. We shared a meal while Jean-François explained to me that he also guided in France, especially in the mountains where he lives five months a year. I ask him if he could organize a Chartreuse chamois hunt for me. He told me that he could organize this hunt but if I wanted to hunt an adult male chamois, I would have to be patient. Four and a half years later I was in France!

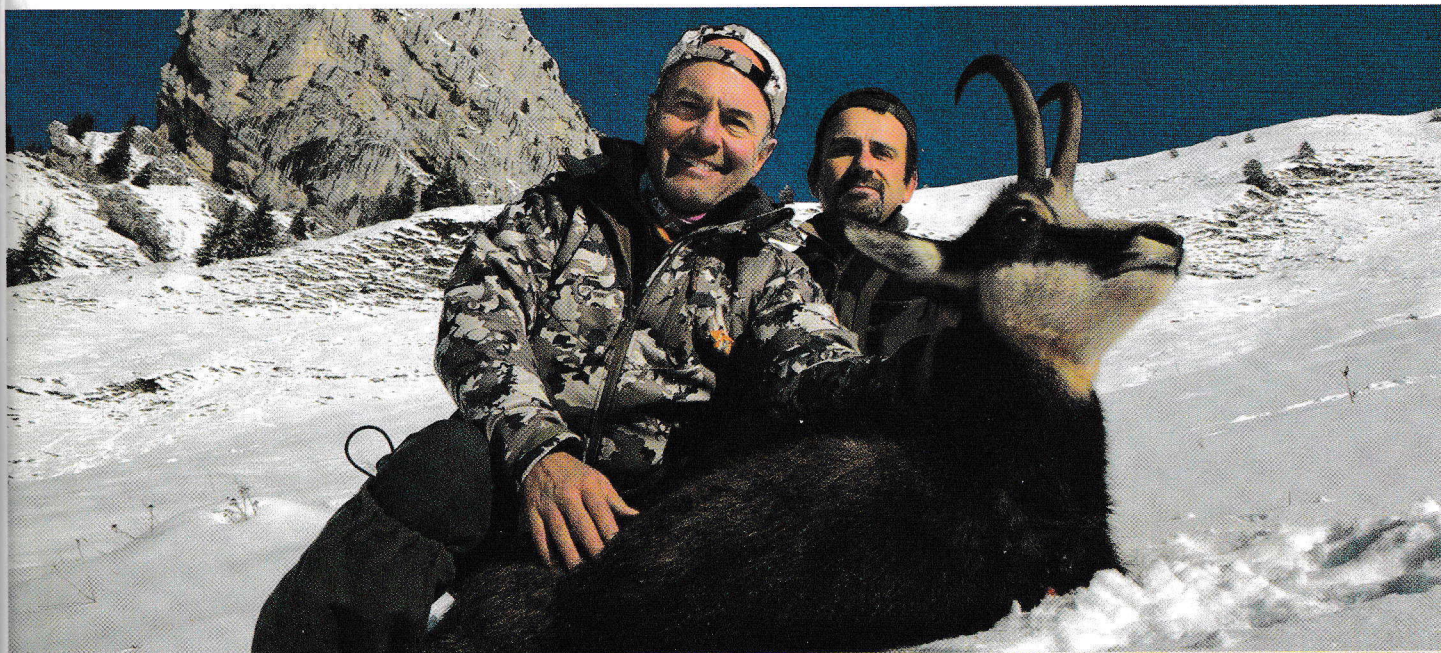
We met at the highway toll station and after a five-hour drive we arrived at the cottage in the heart of the Chartreuse area. In the late afternoon, we visit the Abbey of the Chartreux Monks, in the middle of the mountains where a very well known French liquor is produced. Later that evening we had a good meal in the French culinary tradition.

The next morning, we got up at 6:30 a.m. and Jean-François's local partner, Damien, arrived at 7:15 for a 7:30 departure. After a 30-minute drive, we parked the car lower than expected because of the snow. After a 20-minute walk, we found our first chamois.

Damien told us they were in the neighbor's hunting area so we could look but we could not touch. We continued walking in the snow for another hour before arriving at a mountain refuge. Damien quickly lit a fire so that on the way back we could have a warm place to eat.

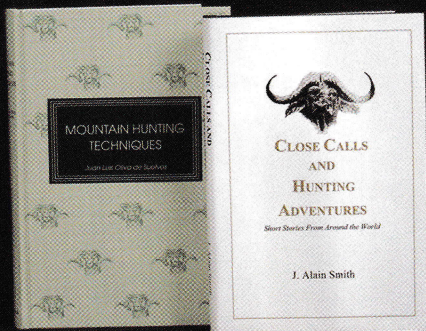
After walking a while more, we found a herd of chamois without a single male even though we were in the middle of the rut. Moments later, at the top of the mountain we found two bucks eyeing each other. It was not possible to approach because everything was covered in snow and we had nowhere to hide. Suddenly, they ran straight downhill! What a sight: the contrast of two black chamois running through the snow. Completely absorbed in their struggle to conquer the females, they came up to us at less than 100 yards away! We could not hope for a better situation. They separated and one went to our right as the other walked toward the females. I quickly prepared a support for my rifle with my bag as Jean-François gave me his rucksack.

Damien and Jean-François discussed which of the two chamois was the biggest, but they were both very close in size. One had slightly thicker horn circumference. Jean-François pointed to him and from a distance of 188 meters, my 300 WSM fired and my Chartreuse chamois died without hearing the rifle shot. We celebrated and drank a cup of hot tea before going to see this beautiful chamois. After pictures, Jean-François loaded it in his bag, and we headed back down the mountain to the refuge. It was good to get back to a warm place. It was still very cold outside. We had a quick meal then made our way back to the car. By mid-afternoon we arrived at Damien's house. Jean-François carefully prepared the cape and Damien measured the horns, which came out to 26 3/8 SCI points. Damien later told us that this was the best trophy of the season.



David Nogareda (Spain, left) with his Chartreuse chamois from France taken in November 2011. This chamois got David to the Capra World Slam Super 20.

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so I had to chop holes in it to get a safe foothold. The chamois stayed put while I prepared for the shot with my Blaser K95 7mm Rem Mag. The shot was perfect and the chamois dropped straight down and began tumbling over the rocks. In a matter of seconds, the chamois covered 150 meters and came to a stop just to my right. Had the chamois hit me, in addition to the immediate damage from the collision, it would have also dragged me down the mountain. Fortunately, this was not the case.

By taking this Vercors chamois, I have all the subspecies of this fantastic Capra trophy, but I will continue to hunt them. I just love chamois hunting.

New member **Taavi Kookmaa** (Estonia) did a multi-species chamois hunt in January 2021 and reported the following:

Chartreuse Chamois: When I was planning this latest hunting trip, I considered the current travel restrictions and decided to choose a

region or country where I could hunt more than one trophy. As it was quite difficult to visit other parts of the world, I looked at Europe and picked France as I could obtain three species there for my Capra World Slam: the Vercors chamois, Pyrenean chamois and the Chartreuse chamois. The trip did not begin smoothly, as my gun was still stuck in Paris when I landed in Lyon. My outfitter, **Jean-François Picheyre** arranged everything well.

The following morning, we fired some practice shots with a gun provided by a local gamekeeper then the three of

us headed to Chartreuse Mountains. It became obvious to me that I had underestimated the level of difficulty, as the snow was as high as 80 cm deep at times. Having trudged through the snow for four hours, we reached the hunting area. We saw some chamois, but the problem was if we shot one of them and it did not fall from the high



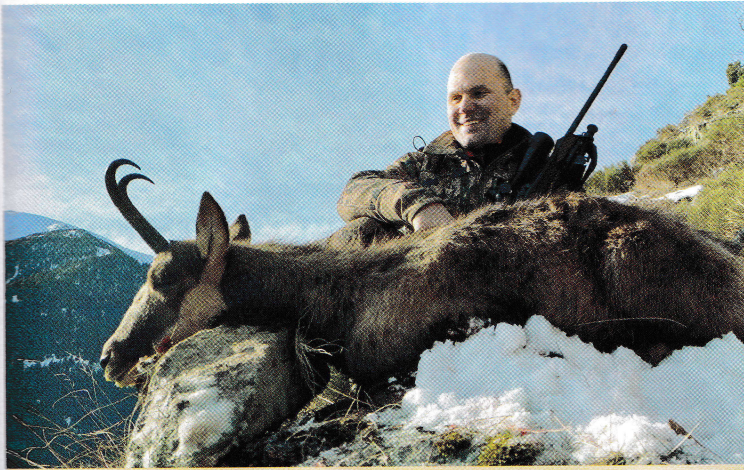
Taavi Kookmaa (Estonia, left) and his Chartreuse chamois from France, January 2021.

cliff edge, it would be too dangerous for us to retrieve it from there due to all that snow and ice and we would have to call a mountain climber to come with special equipment. But the mountain climber would only be able to reach that area on the following morning.

The snowfall was very heavy, and the wind chilled us to the bone. We decided that if we could not get a certain shot that would allow us to bring the trophy down safely, we should spend the night in a cozy cabin in the hunting area and resume the hunt early the next morning. We did venture out once more before sunset, staying in the vicinity of the lodge. We spotted a chamois in a good location and after the 90-meter shot, luckily it fell down near us. I was very happy because these chamois are rather exclusive trophies. We walked down from the mountains in the dark, with headlamps lighting our way. For the first time that day, I followed the tradition of opening a bottle of sparkling wine by the still warm chamois that was our prize.

Vercors Chamois: My rifle was delivered to our accommodation from Lyon and Jean-François accompanied me to the Vercors chamois hunting area. We stayed in a fascinating house built in 1688. Upon arrival, we fired some shots to test the gun and met with the local gamekeeper, who was to take us up to the mountain and help us find a suitable animal. He was a retired member of a special mountaineering unit of the French Army, considerably older than me, yet more energetic and tenacious than the rest of us.

The next morning while it was still dark, we drove for a while and then continued upward on foot when the terrain became too difficult for the car. I was slightly embarrassed that an older man was making a path for me in the mountain snow so that I would not lag behind. Once again, I was surprised by how much snow was on the ground. The weather deteriorated when we reached a plateau. At the foot of the mountain, it had been raining, but now we found ourselves in a snowstorm. It was extremely cold, and the merciless



This Pyrenean chamois was taken by Taavi Kookmaa (Estonia).

wind made it even worse. We attached crampons to our boots for safer movement. Although it was far from good hunting weather, we managed to spot two chamois 200 meters away. There is a first time for everything: the bolt of my trusted Blaser rifle had become frozen and I could not shoot at all! We decided to descend for the day. On our way back, I lost my balance, slipped, and slid down the slope on my back for about 200 meters, with the gun also hanging on my back.

The next morning, I forgot to check the gun as we embarked on the second outing to the mountains. The weather was excellent. Soon enough we found some suitable chamois at a relatively convenient distance. I fired a shot from a good position, but missed completely, and the next three shots fared no better. I realized that something was wrong with the gun, probably as a result of it being dragged down the slope during that accident on the previous day. We had to call it a day and return to our accommodations, once again empty-handed and dejected. As the weather forecast for the next two days was bad, we decided to make the six-hour drive to the Pyrenees area and only to return to Vercors when the weather there improved.

Pyrenean Chamois: Just before reaching the Pyrenees area, we made a stop to disassemble the gun and check everything. Our accommodations were situated as close as possible to

the hunting area. An exceptionally warm welcome awaited us at the Pyrenean chamois territory from the local hunting community as we arrived on the eve of the hunt and enjoyed various delicious dishes and refreshing beverages.

We awoke early and headed up the mountain. After a three-hour hike Jean-François spotted a good chamois 185 meters away and I quickly shot an 11-year-old Pyrenean chamois male. That was certainly the easiest trophy of the three. The Pyrenees offer spectacular views across the land and toward the Mediterranean Sea. The mountain was covered with snow, but at the bottom, the thermometer showed 18°C. With the hunt successfully finished by lunch, we quickly came down, packed our things, and drove for six hours back to the Vercors hunting area. The next day, the weather broke and we decided to reach our accommodation there on the same evening, so that we could resume our Vercors hunt early.

Vercors Chamois (revisited): The sun was shining, but it was windy, so I carried my gun in a special bag to avoid any further unpleasanties. The mountain slopes that we had previously abstained from climbing because they were deemed unsafe now showed traces



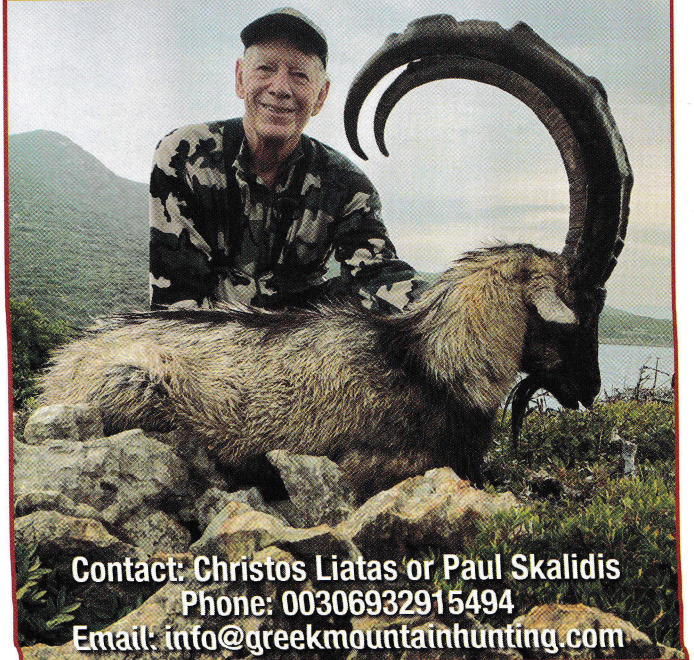
After a few mishaps, Taavi Kookmaa (Estonia) was finally able to connect on this Vercors chamois during a hunt in France.

of an avalanche from the previous day, with many broken trees. During our lunch break, we saw a suitable chamois at a distance of 195 meters and I fired a shot at a minus 35° angle. I finally had my Vercors chamois! Fortune smiled on me during this third attempt on the Vercors slopes. I was overjoyed because earlier I had canceled my flight



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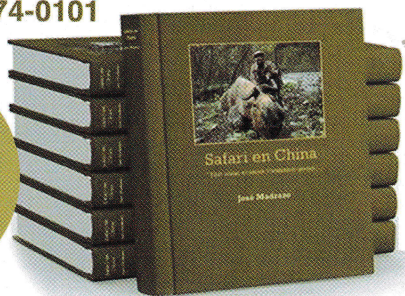
by: Jose Madrazo

José "Pepe" Madrazo reports on his expedition in the Qinling and Erlang Mountains, probably the last western world hunter before the closing of the frontiers in 2005. In *Safari en China* he searches to observe the giant panda and collect the most difficult mountain trophies: golden takin, Sichuan takin, goral and serow. This Spanish hunter achieves the four aforementioned trophies, all of them Top 10 in SCI. If it is considered a difficult task hunting ibex and chamois, to get their distant relatives is even more sublime. Join Pepe and enjoy reading this magnificent description of people, customs and scenery.

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home, deciding not to book a new flight until I had all three trophies.

The time spent in this Vercors chamois habitat in the Rhone Alps was the most difficult part of my hunting trip. Outfitter Jean-François did a marvelous job, making all the necessary hunting arrangements combined with some amazing local traditions. In fact, now I could write a whole separate story about French culinary customs. At all our accommodation locations we were always served a superb multi-course dinner. The French take pride and put great importance on eating and all that accompanies it.

Next up we have one Ovis and one Capra report from **Enrique Fernandez** (Philippines):

Koryak Snow Sheep (8/2018): This hunt took place in the northern Kamchatka Peninsula with **ProfiHunt [Diamond Supporter]**. It was a very rough hunt in terrible weather. Everything was done by foot as they

had no horses or quads. We climbed for seven straight days in search of a suitable ram despite inclement and foggy weather. We finally got a break in the weather and spotted a suitable ram close to the very top of the mountain. After a grueling climb, I got to within 500 yards of three rams and waited for over an hour for my ram to stand up from his bed. Whenever he stood, I fired as soon as he stopped shaking the water from his body. The bullet spun him around and he dropped, rolling 450 yards down the mountain, making a mess of his nose and jaw. I was extremely

happy with my success.

Balkan Chamois (11/2019): I took my Balkan chamois in Macedonia. It is my largest chamois to date and I took it on the first day of the hunt. We hunted in "friendlier" mountains that weren't as brutal as most sheep and goat hunts.



Enrique Fernandez (Philippines) traveled to Russia in August 2018 to get this Koryak snow sheep with ProfiHunt.



Enrique Fernandez (Philippines) with his great Balkan chamois from Macedonia, November 2019.

Jens Knudsen (Denmark) sent in the following report about his hunt for Chartreuse chamois:

In the French mountain ranges, the Pyrenees and the Alps, four of the world's 11 subspecies of chamois are found. Among these the very exclusive Chartreuse chamois, for which only a few licenses are released every year. The Chartreuse chamois is a difficult subspecies to obtain, especially if you want to hunt a male. The subspecies lives secluded from the common Alpine chamois in an isolated mountain range called the "Pre-Alps" between Grenoble and Chambéry in the western part of the French Alps. Approximately 100 licenses are released annually for this subspecies, of which only five are offered to non-French hunters. This



Jens Knudsen (Denmark) is shown here with his 2020 Chartreuse chamois from France.

CHARTREUSE AND VERCORS CHAMOIS UPDATE

Primary Scribe: Bruce Tatarchuk

Co-correspondents: Mark Hampton, Ed Yates

Review:

In the 2014 Spring issue of Slam Quest (#168), a Special Feature appeared on page 77. Authored by Dennis Campbell, this update stipulated that the geographical area for harvesting a “Chartreuse chamois,” with GSCO designation, would be broadened beyond the recognized confines of the Chartreuse Massif to include the Vercors area just to the south (see the map in Figure 1, exactly as it appeared in 2014). Dennis’s justification was based on the fact that the Chartreuse and Vercors areas are in very close proximity, especially prior to the more recent building of highways to the west of Grenoble (which now serve as restrictions to the movement of game). He also cited anecdotal evidence told to him by government guides stating that chamois transplants from the Chartreuse to the Vercors had taken place more recently. Thus, the 2014 GSCO classification for the Chartreuse chamois (to include those also taken in the Vercors) was based on a reasonable belief and presumption that the gene pools and phenotypic characteristics from these two areas are very similar and within the normal variations and distributions that would be found within a normal population.

Recent Communications and Suggestions to GSCO:

GSCO has recently received numerous communications from interested hunters and outfitters operating in either (or both) the Chartreuse and the Vercors areas. These communications correctly note that chamois taken in the Vercors should not be called Chartreuse because they are from a different physical location. We note that this is a rational and correct distinction, but the classification and data are silent on the issue of DNA or definitive phenotypic differences. These communications also suggested that the southern end of the Vercors may be accessible to an influx of Alpine chamois from the surrounding mountains, thus the Vercors chamois should not be considered as a separate classification because they are actually Alpine chamois.

Updated GSCO Position:

We considered the merits of the various arguments and data presented to us as well as our own personal perspectives having hunted in the area. Figure 2 shows the new designation for the separate listing of both Chartreuse and Vercors chamois. Yes, we

have added a new chamois to the Capra list: it is the Vercors. Figure 2 is an updated satellite image with defined boundaries that follow the same overall boundaries as described in 2014. The region to the south of Grenoble is now designated as the area from which a Vercors may be hunted and registered with GSCO. For those members who previously registered a chamois from the Vercors and called it a Chartreuse, it will now be switched to the Vercors category in our records. Please notify Cameron in our office, and he will change it in your records. If you previously harvested an animal in the Vercors, you may wish to contemplate a hunt in the Chartreuse, or vice versa, because HUNTING IS THE #1 CONSERVATION TOOL.

The above noted designation was done in the absence of any DNA data or other truly discerning scientific data. If such data exist, we are not aware of it. As such, we cannot assign significant differences to these animals other than the GPS locations where they reside. During his hunt in the Vercors in January 2014, Bruce Tatarchuk had the pleasure of speaking with numerous guides from both areas and also a taxidermist in Grenoble who had personally handled over 200 heads amassing from both regions. He was told that distinctions made between oval versus more round horn cross-sections did not seem to be a prevalent or distinct indicator of where the animal was hunted. Similarly, body size and cape coloration did not exhibit significant differences either. Bruce was also made aware of chamois transplants in the area and some popular literature attesting to this process. With respect to the porosity of the southern border of the Vercors to intrusion and mixing with Alpine chamois, we believe it is a distinct possibility. However, if such a process is occurring, then a corresponding argument could be made that chamois from the Chartreuse are also Alpine chamois of recent origin.

We sincerely hope this update will assist our members in planning their upcoming hunts and participating in GSCO’s awards platforms. Should this update cause any personal anxiety, then we highly suggest that the best remedy would be to take a kid hunting or to recruit a young person to the hunting community. Take care and happy hunting.

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FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2