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Snow report - Friday 30 November 2012

Great news! Everywhere has now seen fresh snow, it will stay cold, and there's more snow to come over the next 7-10 days.

Austria

Lech has had to postpone its scheduled opening until 6 December, but it has had 20cm of new snow and it's now cold enough for the cannons to be operating at full tilt.

Ischgl opened last weekend and still offers the most extensive skiing in Europe with 108km on a 60cm base. They too have fresh snow but not as much as **Obergurgl** where 60cm has fallen on the upper slopes thanks to its proximity to the Italian border. Here the base is now 125cm deep and 16 lifts are running. Other good options in Austria include **Sölden**, **Stubai** and **Hintertux**.



Conditions are improving in Oberlech - www.skierberg.com

France

Val d'Isère opens tomorrow with 30cm of **fresh** snow in the village and 60cm up top. It's unclear as yet if they'll open any runs down to resort, but we are told that getting over to neighbouring **Tignes** won't be a problem. Either way it should be an epic opening for L'Espace Killy where a cold but sunny day is forecast.

Not quite as much snow has fallen in other Tarentaise resorts (20-30cm typically) but conditions are excellent in **Val Thorens** where 20 runs are open and the upper base is now 85cm deep. **Les 2 Alpes** is the other big name that opens tomorrow. Here too there has been lots of fresh snow and prospects are excellent.



Fabulous early season conditions in Montgenèvre - www.montgenevre.com

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8h

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Italian village breaks world 24hr snowfall record!

[#snow](http://tinyurl.com/o4u6lmb)
pic.twitter.com/JqVV9dRD5C

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10h

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Colder with some snow in the far eastern Alps. Mostly fine elsewhere.

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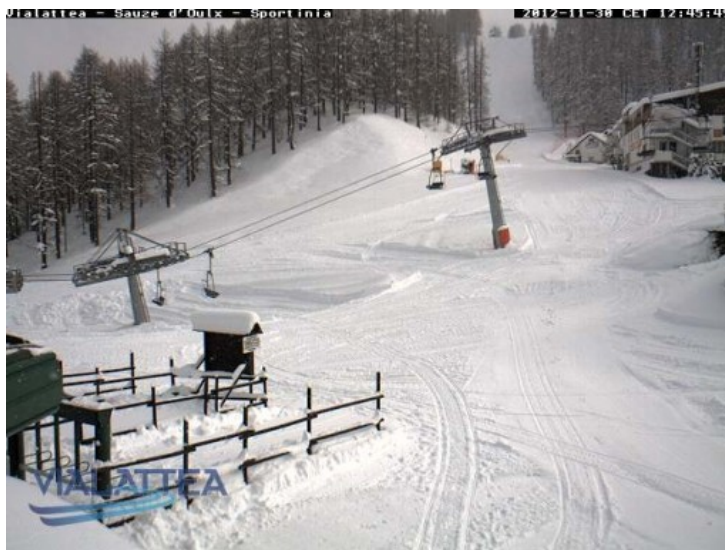
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Italy

Italian resorts have had the lion's share of this week's snow.

Sestriere/Sauze d'Oulx open tomorrow with nearly a metre of fresh snow at 2000m! Thanks to the great conditions **Courmayeur** and **Champoluc** will also be joining them. In **Cervinia**, 40cm of snow has fallen this week in resort with 80cm up top where the base is now over 2m. Conditions are near perfect for the time of year and from tomorrow you will be able to ski all the way back to base.

Further east, well over 1m of fresh snow is reported on the upper slopes of **Madonna di Campiglio**, which will open every day as of tomorrow. The **Alta Badia** area will also open tomorrow to add to the growing list of options in this corner of Italy, which already includes **Kronplatz** and **Cortina**.



Lots of snow for the opening of Sauze d'Oulx/Sestriere tomorrow - www.vialattea.it

Switzerland

Most Swiss resorts have seen some useful snow this week but the heaviest has been in the south with 70cm falling on the upper slopes of **Zermatt**. You can't ski back to base yet, but as of tomorrow all 3 sectors (Rothorn, Gornergrat and Klein Matterhorn) will be open and connected at altitude. **Saas-Fee** might be open top to bottom tomorrow, but for the moment they are running 4 lifts on an upper base that is close to 2m deep!

Elsewhere in Switzerland more and more resorts are partially open or opening this weekend including **St Moritz**, **Davos**, **Engelberg**, **Verbier**, **Andermatt** and **Zinal**.



It doesn't get much better than this - www.zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

Snow has also fallen in the Pyrenees which is great news for the Andorran resorts, which are opening up this weekend. Not so much fresh snow in **Are**, Sweden (18cm base) but at least here it is very cold and the snow cannons are in full operation. Only 2 lifts have been running this week but they hope to open a few more soon. The best conditions in Scandinavia remain in **Hemsedal** (Norway) where 25 runs are open on a 55cm upper base.



There's been snow in the Pyrenees too! Andorran resorts (including Soldeu, pictured) open this weekend.

USA

California resorts have done well so far this season with **Mammoth** leading the way (83 trails, 31 groomed). A major storm is underway here that will deliver huge snow falls at altitude over the next few days but also some rain lower down – especially in the Lake Tahoe resorts. Further north, Wyoming (**Jackson Hole**) is also doing quite well but Colorado is crying out for new snow. Resorts such as **Vail** (46cm mid base) are relying heavily on artificial help at the moment and will need to wait until the end of next week before a change in weather pattern gives them a chance of seeing the significant snow that they need.

Canada

Excellent early season conditions continue in western Canada where more resorts are opening. Perhaps the best area is still **Banff/Lake Louise** where most lifts are now open and the snow depths are about 1m. **Whistler** (mid-base 115cm) has also had a great start to the season with more snow on the way.

Next full snow report on Wednesday 5 December, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates