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Snow report - Friday 15 February 2013

In the run-up to the main half-term week it is difficult to imagine how conditions in the Alps could be much better.

Austria

European Resorts A-Z

It is snowing today in the north-western Austrian Alps – 15 cm so far in **Lech** (150/300cm) where conditions are just about perfect. Further east, **Obertauern** (210/250cm) is also in great shape - as are lower altitude resorts such as **Söll** (90/160cm) thanks to the continuing cold.



Huge amounts of snow in Austria's Vorarlberg (far west) - Photo: www.kanisfluh.net

France

It's been snowing again in France - at least across the northern half of the Alps where conditions are simply epic. Avoriaz (290/335cm) has 15cm of fresh powder and the deepest resort-level base in the Alps. Lower down, $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Les}}$ ${f Get}s$ (130/260cm) and ${f Meg\`eve}$ (130/200cm) are also in fabulous shape in the run up to the main half term week.

The southern Alps have largely missed out this time around but, on-piste at least, conditions remain excellent in both Risoul (95/125cm) and Serre Chevalier (95/200cm).

Italy

Snow depths are less exceptional in the Italian Alps than further north, but conditions are still excellent just about everywhere. Selva Val Gardena (60/120cm) had 5cm of new snow on Tuesday and offers excellent skiing at all altitudes. Further west, **Courmayeur** (80/190cm) is also in great shape with at least 20cm of new snow earlier in the week and another dusting last night.



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Bright and crisp in the Italian Milky Way. This is Sestriere - Photo: www.vialattea.it

Switzerland

There is fresh snow across most of Switzerland and conditions are superb just about everywhere. **Engelberg** (110/540cm) claims the deepest base in the Alps with soft powdery snow from top to bottom. **Andermatt** (130/430cm) is not far behind. Lower resorts such as **Villars** (65/230cm) and **Wengen** (75/180cm) are also in perfect shape in the run up to one of the busiest weeks of the season.



Fresh snow today for Grindelwald

Rest of Europe

Amazing snowfalls continue in the Pyrenees with another top up yesterday in Andorra's **Pas de La Casa** (200/250cm). In Bulgaria, **Bansko** (85/230cm) has also seen fresh snow with more in the forecast. It's good news too for Sweden's premier resort, **Åre** (38/75cm), where conditions are excellent despite the modest sounding snow depths.



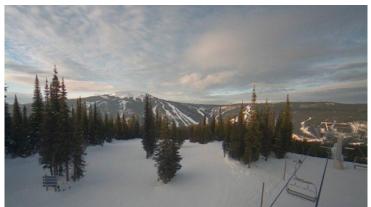
Masses of snow in the Pyrenees right now. This is La Mongie in the Grand Tourmalet area (France) - Photo: www.grand-tourmalet.com

USA

Snow depths are still modest in Colorado but, on-piste at least, conditions are excellent in **Aspen** (74/119cm) with plenty of snow in the forecast. Snow is also forecast in California where **Heavenly** (107cm mid-mountain) is one of many resorts that has suffered something of a drought this February.

Canada

Good conditions continue in **Whistler** though milder temperatures will mean that resort level snow may be a little soft at times. It is a bit colder further inland where **Sunshine Village** (**Banff**) has 155cm mid-mountain and reports excellent conditions at all levels.



Sun Peaks, British Columbia - Photo: www.sunpeaksresort.com

Next full snow report on Wednesday 20 February, but see <u>Today in the Alps</u> for daily updates