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Snow report - Friday 22 March 2013

On the whole, skiing conditions remain excellent across the Alps, particularly at altitude. However, it is (temporarily) much milder, with variable snow quality and afternoon slush lower down. The weather will cool down again next week with further snow in places.

Austria

Conditions remain good for late March, especially at altitude where the pistes of **Obergurgl** (78/201cm) are in perfect shape. Snow quality is more variable lower down but, on-piste at least, snow cover remains complete in Kitzbühel (50/160cm) and **Söll** (50/125cm) with the best skiing early in the day.



The snow cover is still holding up well on the north-facing slopes of low-lying Kitzbühel -Photo: www.kitz.net

France

Conditions remain excellent for the time of year even if milder temperatures mean variable snow quality lower down. This is true in Les Gets (85/225cm) right now where snow cover remains exceptional but slush is increasingly apparent as the day progresses. For more consistent snow quality you need to head to higher resorts such as $\mbox{Val d'Is\`ere}$ (152/310cm) or $\mbox{Val Thorens}$ (170/370cm).



Fantastic snow cover still in Les Gets, but expect some slush lower down later in the day - Photo: www.lesgets.com



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Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps?

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Italy

There is still excellent skiing to be had right across the Italian resorts particularly at altitude. Two of the best bets right now are **Cervinia** (50/290cm) and **La Thuile** (50/300cm), both of which have had plenty of fresh snow this week. It is milder however, and as everywhere else in the Alps some slush is inevitable as the day progresses, particularly in lower resorts such as **Selva Val Gardena** (50/170cm).



Great weather, great snow in Champoluc - Photo: www.regione.vda.it

Switzerland

Most areas are still in great shape for late March, especially the higher ones such as **Zermatt** (35/245cm) and **Saas-Fee** (72/285cm). Lower down, conditions are more variable, but resorts such as **Villars** (40/200cm) still offer plenty of good skiing, particularly in the morning.



Excellent snow cover across most of Switzerland. This is Goscheneralp in the east.

Rest of Europe

Andorra remains in excellent shape (along with the rest of the Pyrenees) with fresh snow earlier in the week for **Soldeu** (150/220cm). By contrast, there has been no significant snow for a month in some Bulgarian resorts but, on-piste at least, conditions are still alright in **Borovets** (70/150cm). Not a huge amount of new snow either for Sweden's premier resort, **Åre** (65/115cm), but here too conditions are still generally pretty good.



The sun's out in Andorra today. This is Soldeu.

USA

Colorado resorts continue to offer excellent conditions thanks to further topups of snow with a mid-mountain base of 163cm for both **Breckenridge** and **Winter Park**. Elsewhere, more substantial snow has fallen in Utah with 218cm of settled snow above **Snowbird**. For the deepest powder, however, you need to head for the Pacific north-west where **Mt Baker** is just emerging from a monster storm cycle and the upper base is 564cm deep.

Canada

Conditions are improving again in **Whistler** (273cm mid-mountain) after the recent mild weather with plenty of new snow at altitude over the last few days. For the most consistent snow quality, however, you need to head inland to the likes of **Banff/Lake Louise** (135/212cm).



Plenty of snow in Lake Louise - Photo: www.skilouise.com

Next full snow report on Wednesday 27 March, but see <u>Today in the Alps</u> for daily updates

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