

WE KNOW SNOW



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Snow report - Wednesday 24 April 2013

Following the heavy snowfalls of last Friday/Saturday, the weather has settled down again with plenty of sunshine and increasingly warm temperatures. These temperatures will peak on Thursday with cooler, more unsettled weather forecast for the weekend. A little snow is even likely at altitude, but not in anything like the quantities we have seen recently.

Many resorts are now closed for the season with more following suit this weekend. Those that are still open still have good cover for the time of year (particularly in France), but it pays to stick to a resort with lots of north-facing slopes above 2500m. Indeed, you probably need to be closer to 3000m to guarantee firm snow all day long in the next 2 or 3 days.

Austria

Glaciers aside, only a handful of Austrian resorts are still open, the largest of which is Ischgl (0/110cm) where an impressive 198km of pistes are still operational. Nearby Obergurgl (45/170cm) is more limited in extent, but perhaps offers the slightly better snow right now given the higher average altitude.

Either way, spring conditions rule - with hard-packed runs early on, softening up as the day progresses



Good snow cover at altitude in Ischgl.

France

France offers the widest range of slopes right now, but most of the big resorts that are still open close this weekend. These include Courchevel (124/220cm), La Plagne (130/310cm) and Les Arcs (85/300cm).

With the weather warming up again this week, the best conditions are in resorts such as Val d'Isère and Val Thorens, both of which have plenty of skiing above 2500m and remain open into May.



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

<u>Contact us</u> and we'll do our best to answer it...

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Great skiing is still possible in Val Thorens - open til 12 May - Photo: www.valthorens.com

Italy

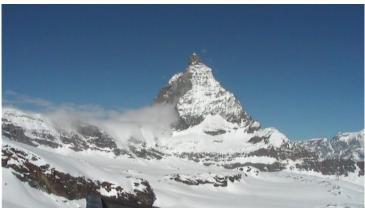
Options are now very limited in Italy. By far the most extensive and snowsure skiing right now is in **Cervinia** (0-320cm) where the sheer height means that there is plenty of good snow to be found, particularly up top. **Livigno** (5/236cm) and **Passo Tonale** (80/400cm) are other options, but neither have the same extent of high altitude slopes as **Cervinia**.



Looking a bit spring-like in Livigno right now, but there is still plenty of snow left on north-facing slopes - Photo: www.valtline.it

Switzerland

Switzerland still offers a handful of high altitude options including **Zermatt** (0/230cm), home to the highest pistes in the Alps. **Engelberg** (35/477cm) and **St Moritz** (Corvatsch) are two other resorts whose slopes reach or exceed 3000m (great for finding firm snow in the warmer weather) and which remain open beyond this weekend.



Great snow up top in Zermatt, which boasts the highest pistes in the Alps - Photo: www.zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

Most Pyrenean resorts are now closed, but Andorra's **Grandvalira** (50/160cm) area will remain open until this weekend due to the impressive snow cover. Up in Scandinavia, both Norway's **Hemsedal** (45/100cm) and Sweden's **Åre** (65/78cm) also retain good cover, and continue to offer excellent spring

skiing.



Good snow cover still in the Grandvalira in Andorra.

USA

Most Colorado resorts are now closed, despite the impressive late snowfall. One exception is **Loveland** (201cm mid-mountain) where conditions are excellent for the time of year. Elsewhere in the US, Utah's **Snowbird** (277cm) and California's **Mammoth** (419cm) are two of the better known resorts still open for business and skiing well.

Canada

Most Canadian resorts are now closed for the season. However, you can still ski in **Whistler** (192cm mid-mountain) where new snow is expected this weekend. **Banff/Lake Louise** (209cm) is the other main option and is in great shape for the time of year.



 ${\it Banff/Lake\ Louise\ is\ one\ of\ the\ few\ remaining\ options\ available\ in\ western\ Canada\ -Photo:\ www.skilouise.com}$

Next full snow report on Wednesday 1 May, but see $\underline{\text{Today in the Alps}}$ for daily updates