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WE KNOW SNOW



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2013-14?

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Snow report - Wednesday 1 May 2013

Welcome to our last detailed snow report of the 2012-13 season. Most resorts have now closed, but here is a round up of what is best/still open in Europe and North America...

Austria

The last remaining entirely non-glacial resorts, **Ischgl** and **Obertauern** close today (1 May). Next up is **Sölden** – on Sunday 5 May – despite a 250cm upper base. After that there will still be plenty of options on one of Austria's many alternative glaciers. Two of the best are **Hintertux** (305cm) which is open 365 days and **Stubai** (260cm) scheduled to close on 5 July.

There hasn't been much in the way of fresh snow this week, but Austrian resorts have (until now) had better weather than many resorts further west. The rest of the week will be more unsettled, so be prepared for some showers if you are skiing on the glaciers in the next few days – particularly in the afternoons. It will become cooler too, with the rain/snow limit dropping from 2700m to 2000m or so by the weekend.



Last day of the season today in Ischgl - Photo: www.ischgl.com

France

Only 5 resorts remain open for skiing in France. One, **La Grave**, is essentially off-piste only and highly dependent on weather conditions on any given day. It closes on Sunday. The others are **Argentière** (0/260cm), **Val d'Isère /Tignes** (60/330cm) and **Val Thorens** (90/240cm). Of these, L'Espace Killy (**Val d'Isère /Tignes**) is probably the best bet right now due to the extent of high altitude terrain and two sizeable glaciers.

Snow cover is still excellent in all these resorts, but as you would expect at this time of year, snow quality is highly variable. There has been a lot of cloud around this week which has led to poor overnight re-freezes and slushy slopes from the word go.

The rest of this week is likely to follow a similar pattern with some sunny spells, but also a lot of cloud at times. This may deliver some showers (and a little snow above 2600-2800m) but, below glacier level, pistes will often be wet, particularly in the afternoons. **Val d'Isère** closes this weekend but **Tignes**, **Val Thorens** and **Argentière** remain open until 12 May.

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8h

Italian village breaks world 24hr snowfall record!

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

pic.twitter.com/JqVV9dRD5C

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10h

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

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Still ample cover down to La Daille, the lowest point in Val d'Isère. The lifts here close on Sunday - Photo: www.valdisere.com

Italy

Of the few remaining options in Italy, **Cervinia** (60/370cm) is by the far the best bet – at least in theory. I say that because the weather has been consistently poor this week, with limited visibility and reduced lift operations. If there is a break in weather, conditions will be fantastic as there is masses of fresh snow high up. Time is running out though - **Cervinia** closes this weekend (5 May).

Elsewhere in Italy, **Livigno** and **Cortina** close today, **Val Senales** on Sunday. The Presana glacier near **Passo Tonale** is reported to be staying open until 8 June.



Lots of fresh snow at altitude in Cervinia which closes on 5 May - Photo: www.cervinia.it

Switzerland

A handful of Swiss resorts are still offering skiing, including **St Moritz**, where you can ski at Corvatsch (5/180cm) until 5 May and on the Diavolezza glacier (150cm) until 26 May. Elsewhere in Switzerland, **Zermatt** (0/230cm) remains open (subject to weather conditions) 365 days a year, and Glacier 3000 (520cm) near **Gstaad** until 5 May (full operation) then weekends only until 26 May. The glacier above **Engelberg** (440cm) also closes on 26 May.

Like elsewhere in the Alps, conditions have been very mixed this week with lots of cloud and some new snow at high altitude (particularly **Zermatt**). Any remaining slopes open below glacier level, however, are likely to be wet and slushy, particularly in the afternoons.



Lots of rain in Zermatt this week means lots of snow on the glacier - Photo: www.apartment-zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

The big news from the Pyrenees is that the Pic du Midi above **Barèges/La Mongie** will reopen from 6-12 May (for the first time ever in May) allowing over 1000m vertical of off-piste terrain. This follows one of their snowiest seasons ever with a cumulative total of 15m reported to have fallen on the Pic du Midi (2877m) itself.

Scotland still has at least 2 skiing options thanks to the cold and snowy April. **Cairngorm** (10/185cm) is open daily until further notice, and **Glencoe** (40/200cm) will open this weekend before they review their situation. **Nevis Range** may also reopen for the bank holiday weekend, but this has not yet been confirmed.

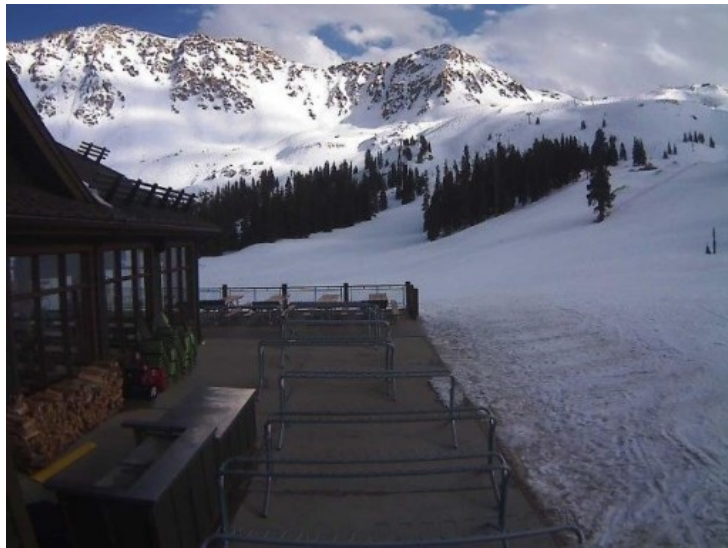
In Scandinavia, most major resorts are now closed or are closing today (including **Åre** and **Hemsedal**).



The Pic du Midi will reopen 6-12 May for off-piste skiing only.

USA

Most Colorado resorts are now closed for season, despite a very snowy spring. Two exceptions are **Loveland** (163cm) scheduled to close this weekend, and **Arapahoe Basin** (147cm) which will continue to 2 June. Elsewhere in the US there are several other options including **Snowbird** (246cm), due to close around 30 May, and **Mammoth** (406cm) also planning to see it through to the end of the month.



Plenty of snow left in Arapahoe Basin that plans to stay open until 2 June.

Canada

Whistler Mountain is now closed for the season, but **Blackcomb** continues until 27 May where the weather is sunny and mild right now. Most other Canadian resorts are now closed for the season, but **Lake Louise** remains open until Saturday (4 May) and **Sunshine Village** until 20 May.

This is our last detailed snow report for the 2012-13 season. Detailed reports for the 2013-14 season will begin in October.

weathertoski.co.uk will continue to provide occasional updates on weather and snow conditions over the Summer...