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Snow report

Updated: 2.40pm Thursday 13 February 2014

On the whole, conditions are pretty good across the Alps (at least they will be once the weather clears) with lots of new snow at altitude in the west. One feature of this winter, however, is that it has never been terribly cold - there was also some rain below 1500m in the north-western Alps this morning.

It will turn milder still later tomorrow and on Saturday with a renewed threat of rain (this time to 2000m or higher) for the northern French, northern and north-western Swiss Alps. It won't last long, however, and cooler air will start to return on Sunday.

Generally speaking, the greatest snow depths are still across Italy and the southern Alps, the thinnest cover across northern Austria.

Austria

The northern Austrian resorts have had some snow in the last few days, but still not enough to provide anything like a convincing base at low altitude. That said there is still plenty of decent piste skiing in the likes of **Söll** (40/70cm) and **Saalbach** (38/85cm). The best conditions, however, are still in the south close to the Italian border with 80/180cm for **Obergurgl** depending on altitude and a massive 430cm up top in **Nassfeld**.

Austrian resorts will miss the heaviest of the snow from the current storm. It will then turn exceptionally mild in the north and west over the weekend before cooler weather returns later on Sunday and Monday.



Northern Austrian resorts are again missing most of the snow. This is Zell-am-See - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

After a couple of fine days the snow is back - though there was also some rain for a time below 1500m today. The deepest snow pack (on average) is still in the southern Alps with 240/340cm for **Isola 2000** and 290/360cm for **La Foux d'Allos** (probably the best overall figures in France).

Further north there is also plenty of snow, though below 1500m cover is still relatively thin. This won't be too much of a worry right now in **Morzine** (30/280cm) with rain turning to snow this afternoon and really piling up at altitude. Nearby **Avoriaz** (210/280cm) can expect 40cm or more from this storm, taking its upper level base to over 3m.

It's not all good news, however. It will turn very mild later tomorrow and on Saturday, with rain possible to 2000m or higher in the northern French Alps, before it cools down again on Sunday.

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Heavy snow in Courchevel this afternoon - Photo: chaletdepierres.com

Italy

As most people will know by now Italy has had something of a vintage season with excellent snow depths across the board – close to record-breaking bases in the east. **Passo Tonale** is just one stand-out resort with an incredible 550cm on the glacier. **Cortina** is also punching way above its weight with an eye-catching 170/350cm.

The heaviest of today's snow is in the west, where **Courmayeur** had 90/200cm of consolidated snow before this storm, and **Sestriere** 120/160cm. What's more the Italian resorts will miss the worst of any warm (and potentially rainy) weather due to affect parts of the north-western Alps later tomorrow and on Saturday.



Western Italy has been getting in on the action too. This is Sauze d'Oulx.

Switzerland

Snow is falling across many Swiss resorts today, heaviest in the north and west where, before today's storm, **Wengen** had 45/115cm depending on altitude, **Verbier** 45/145cm. Both these resorts are still a fraction below where they should be for the time of year, in contrast to resorts close to the Italian border such as **Zermatt** (50/280cm) and **St Moritz** (150/195cm) which have had something of a bumper season.

It will become milder later tomorrow and on Saturday with a chance of rain to 2000m or higher in some exposed northern and western resorts. It shouldn't last too long, however, with cooler conditions returning on Sunday.



Snowing nicely in Zermatt this afternoon - Photo: apartment-zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

Conditions remain excellent across the Pyrenees with fresh snow and impressive base depths for both Spain's **Baqueira Beret** (215/305cm) and Andorra's **Arcalis** (100/200cm).

Bulgaria's modest season continues with more snow needed in **Bansko** (30/100cm) where the off-piste is very limited.

There has been a dusting of fresh snow in Sweden's **Åre** (45/60cm) where, on-piste at least, conditions are described as excellent, despite the modest looking depths. The best conditions in Scandinavia however are in Norway, with fresh snow for **Hemsedal** (162/168cm) and more in the forecast.

A special mention for Scotland too where snow cover is exceptional – record-breaking even in the western resort of **Nevis Range** (160/350cm), where a spokesman said it was the deepest snow he had ever seen there.



Masses of snow in the Scottish resorts right now. This are the lower slopes at Cairngorm - Photo: cairngormmountain.org

USA

Most resorts have seen significant new snow over the last few days and, generally speaking, conditions are excellent. **Winter Park** (Colorado) has seen 91cm of snow falling in February alone and now boasts an upper base of 191cm. The snow is equally fresh and even deeper in **Snowbird**, Utah (224cm upper base) and **Big Sky**, Montana (213cm upper base). Figures are more modest in California, but conditions are improving in **Heavenly** (94cm upper base) after a particularly lean start to the season.



Excellent conditions right across Colorado. This is Arapahoe Basin - Photo: arapahoebasin.com

Canada

Conditions are much improved in **Whistler** (175cm upper base) following 35cm of snow on Wednesday. Further inland, recent snowfalls have (on the whole) been lighter, but conditions in **Revelstoke** (176cm) are also reported to be excellent right now.

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 20 February 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates