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Snow report

Updated: 5.45pm Thursday 13 March 2014

After days of clear skies we have classic spring conditions whereby the snow is hard or icy first thing in the morning, softening during the course of the day.

The resorts offering the best (grippiest) snow right now are those with the highest and most northerly facing slopes. The lower and more exposed to the sun you are, the quicker the snow will turn slushy each day. **WeatherToski** has recently returned from Chamonix where, as a rule, the snow remained firm (all day) above 1800m on slopes facing due north.

Friday will be another perfect day across the entire Alps before cooler and cloudier weather invades some northern regions later on Saturday. This may bring a little snow to the north-eastern Alps on Saturday night and Sunday before the weather settles down again everywhere early next week. However, most areas won't see any new snow this weekend, and many areas will remain quite sunny.

Austria

The warm sunny weather is taking its toll on the lower resorts, particularly in the north. You can still ski down to the likes of **Zell-am-See** (10/93cm), but it's a case of thin strips of white among the greenery.

That said, there is still some perfectly enjoyable piste-skiing to be had at altitude, particularly early in the day. The best overall conditions are in resorts with plenty of slopes above 1800m such as **Ischgl** (40/115cm) and **Obergurgl** (64/138cm). A little snow is possible in Austria over the weekend but only in modest quantities and mostly in the north.



It's definitely spring in the lower Austrian valleys. This is Kitzbühel - Photo: kitz.net

France

It's been a fabulous week in the French resorts though warm temperatures have led to afternoon slush on low altitude slopes or those exposed to the sun. Resorts least prone to this are those with plenty of north-facing slopes above 2000m including **Courchevel** (132/143cm), **Val Thorens** (135/240cm) and **Val d'Isère** (116/173cm).

That said, there is still some very enjoyable skiing to be had in lower resorts such as **Megève** (60/180cm) but the window of opportunity (assuming you don't like slush) is just that bit briefer.

No snow is expected in the French resorts over the next few days though it will

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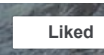
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turn cooler and temporarily cloudier in the north this weekend – especially late Saturday and first thing on Sunday. The south should stay mostly clear.



Pistes looking a little worn at resort level in Les Gets, but generally speaking there is still excellent cover - Photo: lesgets.com

Italy

Snow depths remain impressive across all Italian resorts, despite the relentless sun. This has naturally meant some slush at lower elevations but, generally speaking, conditions are still great, particularly at altitude. **Cervinia** (105/330cm) has the highest slopes in Italy and is skiing superbly right now. **La Thuile** (100/250cm) is lower but has lots of shady north and east-facing slopes so is also a good bet.

No snow is expected in the Italian Alps over the next few days but it will turn cooler over the weekend.



Fabulous snow still in the Monterosa region, particularly at altitude. This is Gressoney.

Switzerland

There is still plenty of great skiing to be had in Switzerland despite the warm and sunny weather. **Zermatt** (40/330cm) and **Saas-Fee** (113/369cm) are as good as anywhere right now thanks to their high altitude slopes and abundant snowfalls earlier in the season. Afternoon slush has been more of an issue in the likes of **Wengen** (30/140cm) and **Villars** (35/135cm) but, at altitude at least, conditions are still good.

A small amount of snow is possible in the north-eastern Alps over the weekend but many places will miss it and all areas will be back under the influence of high pressure next week.



Good snow cover still in Crans Montana, but afternoon slush is a problem due to its southerly orientation.

Rest of Europe

Snow cover remains excellent in the Pyrenees though, with lots of warm sunshine, spring conditions apply here too. **Baqueira Beret** in Spain has 175/335cm of settled snow, **Soldeu** in Andorra 140/250cm.

Bulgarian resorts had another little top up earlier in the week and, on-piste at least, conditions are reasonable right now in **Borovets** (90/120cm), despite a generally disappointing season.

Up in Scandinavia **Åre** (45/62cm) has had a relatively modest season, but the pistes remain in reasonable shape and there is lots of snow in the forecast. Snow is also forecast in Norway's **Voss** (40/145cm) where base depths are more impressive.

Milder weather has led to patchy snow cover in Scotland's **Lecht** (10/20cm) ski area, but other resorts continue to impress, particularly the two western ones of Nevis Range (90/330cm) and Glencoe (205/490cm).



Great spring skiing in the Pyrenees. This is Soldeu, Andorra.

USA

Conditions remain excellent across most of Colorado, including in **Breckenridge** (246cm upper mountain) one of the snowiest resorts in the state this season. Further north, the figures are even more impressive with recent snowfall in both **Big Sky**, Montana (218/312cm) and **Jackson Hole**, Wyoming (287/345cm).

Over in California, conditions are more varied with no new snow for some time in **Mammoth** (127/217cm) and none in the short term forecast. Things are still infinitely better than they were earlier in the season however.



Plenty of snow down to the valley floor in Jackson Hole, which has had a very good season.

Canada

No complaints from western Canada right now where most resorts have seen new snow in the last few days and conditions are generally very good. **Whistler** (238cm upper mountain) and **Fernie** (308cm upper mountain) has had nearly half a metre of fresh in the last week and, with more in the forecast, late season prospects are good.

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