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Snow report

Updated: 1.30pm Thursday 27 March 2014

It has been a fantastic week's skiing for most of the Alps following last weekend's big snowfalls. What's more it has remained on the cold side for the time of year which has meant a far less pronounced spring cycle than we saw earlier in the month, with snow staying firmer for longer and to lower altitudes.

That said, the snow came too late for some of the lowest resorts in northern Austria, where in some cases bases had already disappeared and resorts were already closed. By contrast, snow depths remain exceptional on the southern side of the Alps, where some Italian resorts are still reporting snow depths of up to 500cm.

The coming weekend looks mostly fine with steadily increasing temperatures.

Austria

Many Austrian resorts saw their biggest snowfall of the season last weekend – at least away from the south – with 40-60cm falling quite widely at altitude and up to 110cm of fresh snow on the **Hintertux** glacier. This led to a vast improvement in many resorts including **St Anton** (45/150cm) and **Ischgl** (10/120cm) which have had very lean season by their own high standards.

Resorts such as **Kitzbühel** (30/95cm) and Zell am See (20/110cm) have also benefitted, but they still can't hide the fact that lower down their bases were already "shot" and any improvements were largely cosmetic.

The weekend forecast is for plenty of sunshine and increasing temperatures, so the best conditions will in resorts with plenty of terrain above 2000m - like **Sölden** (10/305cm) and **Obergurgl** 55/140cm).



Excellent snow cover in the Tux valley right now, thanks to huge snowfalls last weekend - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

It's been an excellent week for the French Alps thanks to last weekend's snow and ongoing (relatively) low temperatures. On-piste you can still comfortably ski down to low resorts such as **Morzine** (52/80 cm) or **Megève** (40/160 cm), even if the off-piste is now a bit patchy.

Higher up conditions have been excellent, including in **Courchevel** (130/170cm) and **Tignes** (100/220cm) where for the most part the snow has remained firm and "wintry".

The southern Alps are also in good nick right now with some of the most impressive snow depths in **Isola 2000** (180/315cm) near Nice. The weekend is expected to be mostly fine with increasingly warm afternoon temperatures.

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Skiing in June? Yep, there are plenty of good options in the Alps! tinyurl.com/llt6xzy



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Still plenty of snow in France, even in the lower resorts such as Megève - Photo: megeve.com

Italy

Most Italian resorts are still in excellent shape, with fresh snow in varying quantities last weekend and relatively low temperatures this week. The most impressive snow depths are in the central and eastern Italian resorts such as **Madesimo** (250/500cm) and **Passo Tonale** (60/600cm), but the freshest of the snow is actually further west in the likes of **Sauze d'Oulx** and **Sestriere** (80/140cm) where it was still snowing this morning.

Expect the spring freeze-thaw cycle to become more pronounced this weekend as temperatures rise, with the best conditions most likely in resorts with plenty of skiing over 2000m - such as **Cervinia** (60/310cm).



Fabulous snow conditions today in Cervinia, with a dusting of fresh snow. This is Plan Maison - Photo: cervinia.it

Switzerland

All Swiss resorts received significant snow last weekend with nearly 1m in parts of the south-east, where **St Moritz** (110/240cm) continues its vintage season.

There was plenty of snow further north, too though, with temperatures forecast to increase this weekend, conditions are likely to be more variable in the likes of **Wengen** (20/210cm) and **Klosters** (30/170cm), at least lower down.

For the very best conditions stick to resorts with lots of skiing above 2000 or even 2500m, such as **Zermatt** (115/210cm) and **Saas-Fee** (85/360cm).



Near perfect conditions in St Moritz this week, even if the lake is beginning to show signs of a thaw - Photo: engadinerpost.ch

Rest of Europe

Conditions are excellent in the Pyrenees, with deep bases and fresh snow.

Baqueira Beret (Spain) has 145/345cm depending on altitude and **Soldeu** (Andorra) 90/200cm.

Bulgaria's less than convincing season is spluttering towards its end. There is still some reasonable piste skiing at altitude in **Bansko** (0/150cm), but lower down the cover is now very patchy.

Better news up in Scandinavia where most resorts are still in good nick. The best conditions are probably in Norway with 185cm on the upper slopes of **Hemsedal**.



There is still some fabulous skiing to be had in Soldeu, which continues its excellent season - Photo: grandvalira.com

USA

It's snowing again across much of Colorado after a relatively dry spell of weather. This is good news for the likes of **Breckenridge** (221cm mid-mountain) which has enjoyed a bountiful season with plenty of good skiing to come.

Further north, **Jackson Hole** (269/320cm) is also enjoying fresh snow, with California even getting in on the action. **Heavenly** currently reports 15cm of powder on a 168cm base with lots more snow in the forecast!

Canada

Whistler (277cm mid-mountain) is in tremendous shape right now, with a foot of new snow and lots more in the forecast. Further inland, recent snowfalls have been more modest, but conditions remain excellent in **Fernie** (364cm) and **Revelstoke** (261cm). All in all it's great news for the resorts of western Canada.



Great end of season conditions for the resorts of western Canada. This is Sun Peaks - Photo: sunpeaksresort.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 3 April 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates