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Snow report

Updated: 2.15pm Monday 17 November 2014

It's a generally encouraging picture across the Alps in this week's snow report. Anyone that has been following our recent reports will know that there are already serious quantities of snow at altitude across the southern Alps. More recently the snow has been falling a bit further north too – at least in France and Switzerland. What's more the temperature has dropped allowing the snow to settle to 1500m or lower in places.

It's not all good news though – much of Austria (away from the Italian border) has again missed out and although some snow is expected here over the next few days, the forecast is for it to turn drier and milder later in the week.

Looking at the Alps as a whole though, we can have few complaints, given that it is only mid-November. It's good news across the board too...

Austria

Austrian skiing is still largely confined to the glaciers, but **Obergurgl** (7/70cm) is one notable exception, with **Obertauern** hoping to join the action this weekend. Generally speaking most of the snow is in the south close to the Italian border, while many of the lower resorts further north still have it all to do. Still, there isn't anything particularly unusual about that given that it is only mid-November.

Right now we reckon that **Sölden** (140cm upper base) offers the best skiing in Austria, with over 60km of pistes both on and below the glaciers.





Many Austrian resorts have missed the recent snow, though some is forecast this week. This is Kitzbühel - Photo: kitz.net

France


Tignes remains the only major resort open in France with **Val Thorens** set to join the action this weekend. At altitude, the snow is good but closer to resort level (particularly in **Tignes**) cover is still a bit superficial. A few more flurries are likely today and tomorrow before it turns drier and milder later in the week.

Generally speaking, the most snow is to be found in the southern Alps (e.g. **Serre Chevalier**) with up to 1.5m at altitude in places, though it remains to be seen if anywhere will open ahead of schedule. The far northern Alps (e.g. **Avoriaz**) also has lots of snow but does not plan to open until mid-December.


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



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Avoriaz has seen much more snow (relative to its height) than the Tarentaise resorts - Photo: avoriaz.com

Italy

Italian resorts have seen lots of snow in recent days, at least at altitude, with **Cervinia** (155/180cm middle/upper base) continuing, weather-permitting, to offer some of, if not *the*, best skiing in the Alps.

Elsewhere you can also ski on the glacier at **Val Senales** but, with upper mountain depths building nicely across the Italian Alps, expect more openings soon – including **Livigno** this weekend.



Lots of snow in Livigno, which plans to open this weekend - Photo: valtline.it

Switzerland

Many central and southern Swiss resorts – roughly in a triangulated line from **Zermatt** up to **Andermatt** and back down towards **St Moritz** - have an exceptional amount of snow at altitude for mid-November. **Saas-Fee**, for example, has nearly 3m up top but has had difficulty opening due to avalanche danger.

Elsewhere in the Swiss Alps the snow is building at altitude but remains thin lower down due to the mild autumn to-date. This weekend, weather-permitting, a dozen or so resorts will be open. Most of them are glaciated, but some exceptions to this rule including **Verbier** and (hopefully) **Davos** will also open, albeit in a limited capacity. **Zermatt** (160cm upper base) and **Saas-Fee** (270cm upper base) remain the best options for now.



Zermatt has seen lots of snow in recent weeks, particularly at altitude - Photo: apartment-zermatt.ch

USA

It's good news across the pond too, with big snowfalls and more openings in Colorado - including **Breckenridge** (pictured), where more than 1m has fallen in the last week or so.

Snow has also been falling in Utah, where **Snowbird** expects to open next weekend, and in Wyoming where **Jackson Hole's** planned opening is on 27 November.



Many Colorado resorts are enjoying great early season conditions. This is Breckenridge - Photo: breckenridge.com

Canada

The ski season is also underway in Canada with **Lake Louise** and **Sunshine** both now open. They haven't seen as much snow here as in many US Rocky resorts, but there is more in the forecast.

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