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Snow report

Updated: 1.15pm Thursday 20 November 2014

Snow conditions are highly variable across the Alps right now.

At altitude and in the southern Alps snow depths are above average for the time of year – exceptional in places, particularly in the western Italian and southern Swiss Alps. Examples of resorts in this top tier include **Serre Chevalier** (France), **Cervinia** and **Monterosa Ski** (Italy), and **Zermatt**, **Saas-Fee** and **Andermatt** (Switzerland). Remember though that the base is only exceptional at high altitude, say above 2300m or so.

By contrast, the low resorts of the north-eastern Alps (Austria) e.g. **Kitzbühel**, **Söll** and **Saalbach**, have no snow at all low down and only a thin covering up top. Still, there is nothing unusual about that at this stage of the season.

Elsewhere in the Alps the Dolomites have also seen some decent snow falls at altitude – as have the northern French and northern Swiss Alps - but lower down there is still plenty to do. The forecast is for several days of quiet weather now before the potential for further snowfall to return later next week.

Austria

Generally speaking Austrian resorts have missed the heaviest of the recent snow and you have to aim high to find good cover. The most extensive options right now are in **Sölden** (141cm upper base) and **Obergurgl** (16-90cm), both of which offer 60km+ of pistes.

Elsewhere in the country most of the action is still confined to the glacial resorts such as **Stubai**, **Kaprun** and **Hintertux**. **Obertauern** had hoped to open this weekend but this has been put back a week due to insufficient snow. Some relief is likely later next week but how much snow will fall and where is still uncertain.



You have to aim high in Austria to find good snow cover right now. This is Sölden - Photo: soelden.com

France

So far this month only the Grande Motte glacier above **Tignes** has provided any serious lift-served skiing. Here there is 70cm of packed snow on the glacier, with the run down to Val Claret expected to open (officially) on Saturday.

However, several new openings this weekend will increase the choice available in France. The biggest name among these is **Val Thorens** (30/60cm) where a selection of (mostly non-glacial) runs will be available. **Montgenèvre** and **La Clusaz** are two other resorts that will open ahead of schedule, though the latter on weekends only.

The weather will be relatively quiet over the next few days but further snow is a distinct possibility later next week.

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



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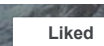
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Reasonable snow cover in Val Thorens ahead of its season opening this weekend - Photo: valthorens.com

Italy

Most Italian resorts have good upper mountain snow cover, with exceptional depths for the time of year in some western resorts such as **Cervinia** (155/195cm middle/upper base) and **Champoluc** (130cm upper base).

Indeed **Cervinia** remains our pick of the Alpine resorts right now and plans to open all the way to the village on Saturday!

More snow is forecast towards the middle/latter part of next week, perhaps (again) in significant quantities.



Plenty of snow in Livigno, which opens for the first time this weekend - Photo: valtline.it

Switzerland

The best skiing remains in the south-western resorts of **Saas-Fee** (255cm upper base) and **Zermatt** (160cm upper base) the latter offering over 70km of runs linked with **Cervinia** – the greatest extent of lift-served slopes in the Alps right now.

Elsewhere in the country there are a number of more limited options including **Engelberg** and **Davos**.

A quiet few days of weather is expected with snow likely to return later next week.



Excellent snow depths at altitude in southern Switzerland. This is St Moritz - Photo: stmoritz.ch

USA

More and more Colorado resorts are opening including **Vail** (on Friday) and the timing could not be better. Not only is there already a decent early covering, but lots more snow is also forecast later in the weekend, continuing for much of next week! Right now **Breckenridge** has 17 runs open and an upper snow base of about 60cm.



Good snow base in Breckenridge, with more snow in the forecast.

Canada

Only a handful of resorts are open in western Canada, the best known being in the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (38/53cm) where there is some reasonable piste skiing, but more snow would be welcome.

Further west, **Whistler** will start its season on Saturday. The snow-base is relatively modest so far but more snow is expected over the next few days, particularly at altitude.

Next full snow report will be on Monday 24 November 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates