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Snow report

Updated: 1pm Monday 24 November 2014

It's been a quiet few days in the Alps which has given us a good chance to assess just how things stand in the run up to the main 2014-15 season.

At altitude in the southern Alps, snow depths are above average – considerably so in places, especially in the western Italian Alps (e.g. **Cervinia**, **Monte Rosa**), southern Switzerland (e.g. **Andermatt**, **Zermatt** and **Saas-Fee**). Snow cover is also reasonable at altitude (but no more than that) in other parts of Switzerland (e.g. **Davos**, **Verbier**) and the northern French Alps (e.g. **Tignes**, **Val Thorens**). However, with one or two exceptions it is thin or patchy below 2000m.

Glaciers aside, some high resorts in the south and west of Austria are also doing ok (e.g. **Obergurgl** and, soon to open, **Ischgl**) but most Austrian resorts, including the likes of **Kitzbühel**, **Söll**, and **Saalbach**, are still very green.

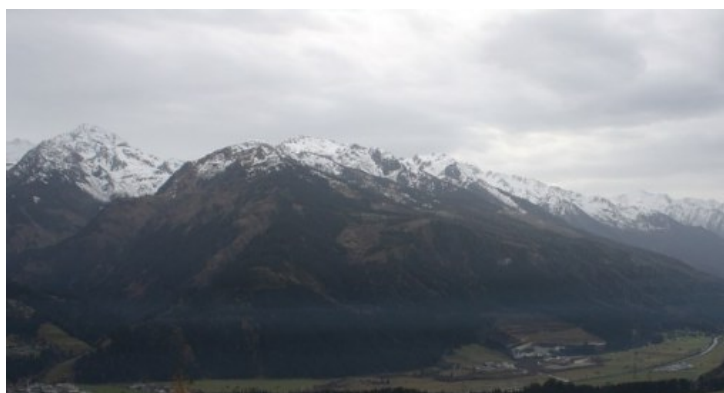
The forecast for this week is for it to turn slowly more unsettled from the south-west, but hopes of some widespread snow by the end of the week have all but evaporated over the last few days.

Austria

Austria continues to offer the greatest number of skiing options in the Alps, although most of them still involve glaciers. One of the best is **Sölden** (174cm upper base) with 70km of pistes now open and plenty of non-glacial terrain to boot. **Hintertux** is another good option, with 40km of runs on a 185cm base.

Obergurgl (10/80cm) is the only entirely non-glacial resort to offer a significant amount of skiing, with **Ischgl** joining the fray this coming weekend.

The forecast for the coming week is for plenty of dry and mild though sometimes quite cloudy weather.



Still very green in the lower Austrian valleys. This is Pass Thurn near Kitzbühel - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Tignes (10/70cm) and **Val Thorens** (50/90cm) are the two big names that are now open on a daily basis. The skiing in **Tignes** is still mostly up on the Grande Motte glacier, but they have also now opened the long Double M run down to Val Claret. At altitude the snow is still quite good but much more is needed lower down if L'Esapce Killy as a whole (scheduled to open next weekend) is going to function convincingly. In many respects this then makes **Val Thorens** the better bet for now as there is more snow at resort level.

Elsewhere in the French Alps a handful of resorts opened over the weekend (largely to garner publicity) including **Courchevel**, **La Clusaz**, **Montgenèvre** and **Alpe d'Huez**.

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



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The forecast is for it to gradually turn more unsettled this week with some snow at altitude in the south but not in anything like the quantities once hoped.



Snow cover still a bit thin across L'Espace Killy, due to open properly this weekend - Photo: tignes.net

Italy

Cervinia (linked with **Zermatt**) continues to offer some of, if not *the* best skiing in the Alps, with 99km of pistes now open including two runs all the way down to resort.

Elsewhere in the Italian Alps a handful of resorts are also offering (limited) options - some glacial such as the **Presana** glacier near Passo Tonale (250cm upper base) and **Val Senales** (225cm upper base) - some not, such as **Madesimo** (20/230cm).

The forecast for the coming week is quite mixed with some snow at altitude, mostly in the western Italian Alps.



Cervinia remains one of the best bets for skiing in the Alps right now - Photo: cervinia.it

Switzerland

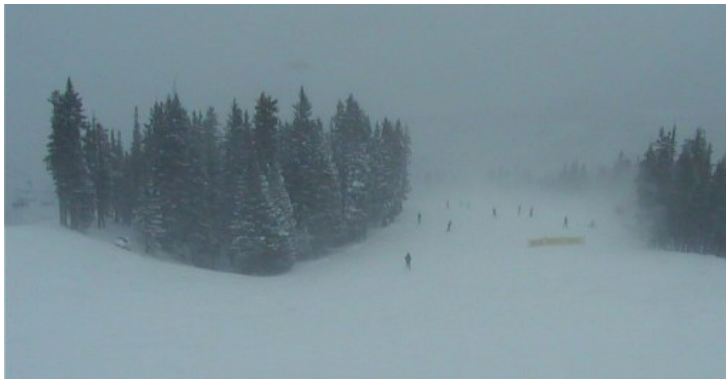
The best conditions continue to be in the high southern resorts, particularly **Saas-Fee** (240cm upper base) and **Zermatt** (155cm upper base) where you can now ski down to Furgg. There are, however, several other options scattered around the Swiss Alps, three of which are **Engelberg** (125cm upper base), **Davos** (5/85cm) and **Glacier 3000** (100cm upper base) that are all open on a daily basis.

The forecast for the coming week is for plenty of dry and mild though often quite cloudy weather. Some snow is however possible at altitude in the far south at times.

USA

Further snow fell across most Colorado resorts over the weekend with the likes of **Vail** (56cm mid-mountain base) in good condition for the time of year. Across in Utah the news is also positive with lots of new snow in **Snowbird** (1m mid-mountain base) which is now open for the season.

By contrast, California is enduring another slow start to the season - a handful of runs are open in **Mammoth**, but much of the 46cm upper base is thanks to artificial help.



There was plenty of new snow across Colorado this weekend. This is Breckenridge - Photo: breckenridge.com

Canada

Only a handful of western Canadian resorts are operational with lots more due to open over the next two to three weeks. Right now your best bet is probably **Sunshine Village** and **Lake Louise** (38/55cm) in the Banff national park, though more snow is still needed.

Further west, **Whistler's** season is also underway (44cm upper base) albeit in a very limited capacity for now. Here too more snow is needed and indeed is forecast early this week, before turning to rain (even at higher altitudes) later.

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 27 November 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates