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Snow report

Updated: 11.50am Thursday 27 November 2014

The recent mild weather has been taking its toll in the Alps but there is still some decent skiing to be found at altitude. The best conditions remain in the high altitude resorts close to the Swiss/Italian border such as **Zermatt**, **Cervinia** and **Saas-Fee**, all of which have close to or above 2m of snow at 3000m.

By contrast, little or no *meaningful* snow remains below 2000m almost anywhere in the Alps, with lots to be done over the coming weeks if serious early season problems are to be avoided.

That said, there is no need to panic yet – some of the very best seasons have not got going until well into December. What’s more it is forecast to turn colder next week. We can’t promise an awful lot of snow but, at the very least, it will allow the snow cannons to fire up which has been difficult or impossible over the last few days, at least lower down.

On the whole, North America is doing better than the Alps, with many of the big names in Colorado seeing their best late November conditions for several years.

Austria

The big news today is the opening of **Ischgl**. There may only be 40cm of consolidated snow up top, but with 72km of pistes on offer it just beats **Obergurgl** for the greatest extent of entirely non-glacial skiing in the Alps right now.

For the most part, however, skiing in Austria still involves glaciers, with **Hintertux** (95/185cm mid/upper base) and **Sölden** (59/170cm mid/upper base) offering as decent a ski as anywhere in the country right now.

It will remain mostly bright and relatively mild over the weekend before turning colder next week.

France


Tignes (15/70cm) and **Val Thorens** (50/90cm) are the two big names open on a daily basis right now. **L’Espace Killy (Val d’Isère and Tignes)** officially opens on Saturday, but there is insufficient snow to link the two resorts together and the action in both resorts will be mostly confined to their respective glaciers. In **Val d’Isère** skiing will be free (this weekend only).


Another notable opening this weekend will be **Les 2 Alpes**, but here too there is little snow lower down with most of the action confined to the top of the mountain.

The forecast is very mixed over the next few days – still mild with the chance of some snow at altitude close to the Italian border. It will turn colder everywhere during the course of next week.




Serious lack of snow at lower elevations in L'Espace Killy. This is Tignes - Photo: tignes.net


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



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Italy

Cervinia (shared with **Zermatt**) continues to offer the greatest extent of skiing in the Alps right now with 110km of runs and a 155/190cm mid/upper base.

There will be lots of other options this weekend too, albeit on a more limited basis, including **Livigno** (29/90cm), **Madesimo** (20/230cm) and the **Monterosa Ski** area (200cm upper base) to name just few.

Some snow is expected across the western Italian resorts over the next few days (e.g. **Cervinia**, **Champoluc**), but eastern parts (e.g. Dolomites) will largely miss out. It will, however, turn considerably colder during the course of next week with the chance of further snow in places.



Reasonable snow cover for the time of year in Livigno, which plans to open this weekend - Photo: valtline.it

Switzerland

The best skiing in Switzerland remains in **Zermatt** (5/155cm) and **Saas-Fee** (14/230cm), the former now offering 110km of slopes linked to **Cervinia** (the greatest extent in the Alps right now).

Elsewhere in the country there are bits and pieces open, some resorts only at weekends and some on a daily basis - including **Davos** (2/70cm) and **Engelberg** (0/118cm).

Zermatt and **Saas-Fee** may see some snow over the next few days, but most ski resorts will miss out - at least until next week when it is expected to turn colder with snow showers to lower levels.



Masses of snow at altitude still in Zermatt - Photo: zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

A handful of resorts are offering limited skiing in **Finland**, but bigger news is the heavy snow that has fallen in **Norway** - 50cm in **Hemsedal**, which is expected to open on Friday.

Over in the **Pyrenees**, after a lengthy mild spell more snow is needed to get any serious skiing underway.

USA

Most resorts are in excellent condition for the time of year due to cold

temperatures and recent snowfall. **Vail** (Colorado), for example, has seen 80cm of new snow in the last week and has a 74cm consolidated mid-mountain base.

Over in Utah, **Snowbird** (110cm mid-mountain base) is also in great nick with nearly 1m falling in the last seven days! Not such great news for California though, where **Mammoth** (45cm upper mountain base) is open but offers limited piste skiing on a mostly artificial base.

Canada

More resorts are opening or about to open, though mostly on a limited basis for now. **Whistler** (62cm mid-mountain base) has some reasonable piste skiing up top but is still thin lower down.

Further inland, conditions are improving in the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (39/59cm) with around 20cm of new snow in the last couple of days and more in the forecast.



Improving conditions with new snowfall in Lake Louise - Photo: skilouise.com

Next full snow report will be on Tuesday 2 December 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates