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## Snow report

**Updated: 2.45pm Monday 22 December 2014**

Conditions in the Alps are still far from ideal, but there is plenty of good skiing to be had if you know where to look.

As a very general rule, resorts with most of their skiing above 2000m can offer reasonable conditions – sometimes even quite good conditions, at least on-piste. However, those with most of their slopes below 2000m are not faring so well and some big name resorts (e.g. **Morzine**, **Megève**) remain completely closed. Remember, this is a rule of thumb and there are exceptions both ways round.

As for the forecast, it does offer us some promise – first on Thursday with some light to moderate snow over the northern and eastern Alps, then perhaps, more widely later in the weekend. Watch this space...

Over in North America, conditions are generally very good, with fresh snow in most of the major resorts.

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### Austria

Snow fell across some Austrian resorts over the weekend, generally in modest quantities but up to 20cm in parts of the north and east (Salzburgland, Styria, Upper Austria).

Generally speaking though, snow cover remains patchy at low altitude with the best skiing in resorts with glaciers or where most of the terrain is above 2000m, including **Sölden** (0/197cm), **Hintertux** (25/195cm) and **Obergurgl** (25/100cm).

One A-list area that has been causing concern recently is the usually snow-sure Arlberg region (**Lech**, **Zürs**, **Warth**, **St Anton**). Snow cover here is still very meagre – just 15-40cm depending on altitude – but at least around half of the area's 97 lifts are now open, a big improvement on this time last week.

The early part of this week is expected to be mostly dry and quite mild, but more snow is likely on Thursday, then again over the weekend.



Decent skiing on the Hintertux glacier (back left), but patchy snow in the valley, even at 1500m - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

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### France

There is some good skiing to be found in France if you know where to look. Resorts where most of the slopes are below 2000m though are really suffering, including **Morzine** and **Megève** which are still unable to open.

Indeed in the Haute-Savoie department, only **Avoriaz** (30/60cm) is anything like fully open right now, with even **Flaine** (2/60cm) and **Chamonix** (0/100cm) only offering very limited terrain.

In the northern French Alps, the best conditions are in **Val Thorens** (60/100cm) and **Val d'Isère/Tignes** (20/40cm).

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Skiing in June? Yep, there are plenty of good options in the Alps! [tinyurl.com/llt6xzy](http://tinyurl.com/llt6xzy)



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[Contact us](#) and we'll do our best to answer it...

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Further south, there is also some good skiing to be found in **Les 2 Alpes** (2/80cm), **Serre Chevalier** (0/100cm) and **Isola 2000** (40/100cm).

The next few days are expected to be mostly fine and mild, but some snow is possible towards the weekend.



Good snow at altitude in Serre Chevalier - Photo: serrechevalier.com

### Italy

Italian resorts haven't seen much snow in recent days, but many of the high ones are still in good conditions thanks to the big November storms, including **Cervinia** (20/180cm), **Champoluc** (5/85cm) and **Livigno** (25/125cm).

Lower down cover is more patchy. The **Sella Ronda** (5/50cm) region in the Dolomites could do with more snow, for example, though to be fair they have done an admirable job in opening the majority of their runs considering their very modest depths.

The forecast for the week is mostly fair and quite mild to begin with, turning more unsettled with the chance of a little snow towards the weekend.



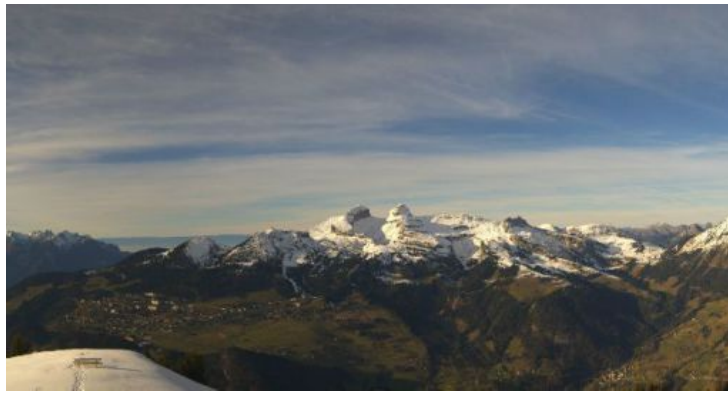
Plenty of snow in Livigno - Photo: valtline.it

### Switzerland

The northern and eastern Swiss Alps have seen a little new snow in recent days, but not really enough to change the bigger picture.

The best conditions remain at altitude and in the south, with **Zermatt** (5/95cm) and **Saas-Fee** (23/178cm) still leading the way. **St Moritz** (2/90cm) and **Davos** (10/80cm) are two other reasonable options, but most resorts could do with a lot more snow.

The forecast for later in the week, and especially next weekend, is encouraging but before that we have several mostly dry and relatively mild days to get through.



A good perspective of the situation at low altitude in the northern Alps. This is looking towards Leysin from Villars - Photo: villars.ch

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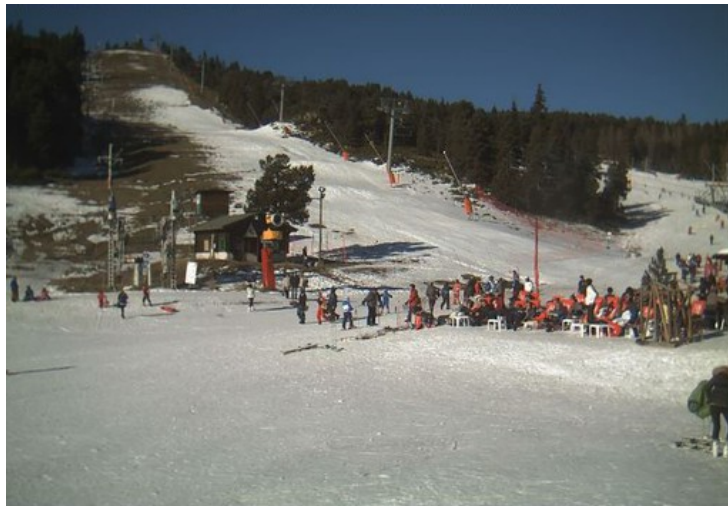
### Rest of Europe

**Norway** continues to offer some of the best conditions in Europe, with top to bottom coverage and most lifts open in **Hemsedal** (74/77cm). Snow depths are more modest in **Sweden's Åre** (25/50cm), but conditions are improving and the extent of terrain on offer is increasing all the time.

The picture in the Pyrenees is quite mixed, with some reasonable piste skiing in the higher resorts such as **Pas de La Casa** (30/90cm) in **Andorra**.

However, here too the mild weather has taken its toll and cover in lower resorts such as **Font Romeu** (20/40cm) in **France** is rather patchy.

**Bulgaria** could also do with some more snow, with most of the skiing in **Bansko** (0/60cm) on the upper half of the mountain.



Thin snow cover at low altitude in the Font Romeu-Pyrénées 2000 area - Photo: pyrenees2000.com

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### USA

Heavy snow is falling across Colorado and is set to continue on and off over the next few days. Conditions are therefore excellent in most resorts including **Vail** (99cm mid-mountain) and **Aspen** (117cm mid mountain).

It's a similar story in Utah and Wyoming where **Snowbird** (127cm mid mountain) and **Jackson Hole** (124/150cm) both have plenty of fresh snow and are skiing superbly right now.



Powder day in Arapahoe Basin, as in many other Colorado resorts - Photo: arapahoebasin.com

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## Canada

**Whistler** has seen plenty of fresh snow over the last few days and now offers excellent conditions for the time of year with a mid-mountain base of 135cm.

Further east, snowfall has been lighter in **Lake Louise**, but there are no complaints here either with all 109 runs open and a mid-mountain base of 80cm.

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**Next full snow report will be on Monday 29 December 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates**