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Snow report

Updated: 2.25pm Monday 19 January 2015

This week's snow report is mostly positive, with conditions across the Alps as good as they have been all season. This is largely thanks to a major snowfall on Friday night/Saturday which delivered 20-50cm of new snow across a wide swathe of the Alps – close to 1m in some parts of Lombardy (Italy) and the far south-east of Switzerland.

What's more, it is set to stay cold this week with further flurries in places – though these will generally be lighter than those we saw over the weekend.

All in all, it's a much improved picture even if snow depths in the Alps remain below average for the time of year. This isn't too much of a problem right now with the cold temperatures and new snow. However, it is worth noting that further dumps are still needed, particularly at lower altitude, in order to avert potential problems during warm spells further down the line.

Off-piste conditions also remain highly variable (and often dangerous) thanks both to poor snow consolidation and natural hazards (where snow is thin).

Austria

All Austrian resorts saw some snow over the weekend, which means that conditions are generally pretty good - even if cover remains thin at low altitude in the likes of **Söll** (35/45cm) and **Saalbach** (35/80cm).

Higher altitude **Obergurgl** has 37/131cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Obertauern** has 100/140cm.

The forecast for the next few days is for it to stay relatively cold with a little snow in places towards the end of the week.



Great on-piste conditions (and weather) in Ischgl today - Photo: ischgl.com

France

Conditions are much improved in France thanks to the fresh snowfall over the weekend. This time it is the lower resorts such as **Morzine** (40/130cm) and **La Clusaz** (20/130cm) that have seen the greatest net improvement and now offer decent top to bottom skiing for the first time this season.

Not surprisingly the high resorts of the Tarentaise are also in good shape, even if the recent snowfall here was lighter. **Val d'Isère** and **La Plagne** both have 50/100cm of settled snow depending on altitude.

The rest of the week will remain relatively cold with a little (mostly light) snow at times.

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



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Sunday was the best day of the season so far in the Portes du Soleil. This is La Chapelle d'Abondance - Photo: valdabondance.com

Italy

All Italian resorts saw fresh snow over the weekend, the heaviest of which was in Lombardy where **Madesimo** (140/400cm) now boasts the highest non-glacial upper base in the Alps (the glacier at **Passo Tonale** also claiming 400cm).

The Dolomites didn't get as much snow as forecast, but conditions in the likes of **Arbba** (50/75cm) and **Cortina** (30/120cm) have also improved and this week's cold weather will continue to allow their state of the art snow-making to fire at full capacity.

The rest of the week will remain relatively cold with the best chance of any significant new snow on Thursday.



Good skiing in the Milky Way regions following Saturday's snowfall. This is Sestriere - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

Swiss resorts saw some of the heaviest snowfalls from the recent storm, especially in central and south-eastern areas where **Andermatt** now has 60/350cm of settled snow depending on altitude, and **St Moritz** has 40/185cm.

Figures are more modest in the lower resorts of the north-west but, as Ski Sunday viewers will have noticed, conditions in **Wengen** (25/75cm) are also much improved.

Temperatures will remain relatively low for the rest of the week with a little snow in places, especially in the south and west.



Perfect conditions in St Moritz, which did as well as any major resort from the recent storm - Photo: engadinerpost.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees have also seen a little new snow recently which means conditions are now pretty good, especially in high resorts such as **Pas de La Casa** (60/100cm) in Andorra and **Baqueira Beret** (65/140cm) in Spain.

In Bulgaria, a lack of recent snow has meant that some lower runs are now looking worn again, with the best skiing at altitude. **Bansko** currently has 30/110cm depending on altitude.

In Scandinavia, the best conditions are still in Norway with **Voss** (110/195cm) leading the way following bumper snowfalls in recent weeks. Over in Sweden, there has also been some new snow in **Åre** (40/52cm) though here base depths are more modest.

Scottish resorts have good snow cover right now, and conditions have been fabulous in recent days, though wind has still been an issue at times. **Glencoe** currently has 50/110cm depending on altitude.



Plenty of snow in Glencoe right now - Photo: glencoemountain.com

USA

Most Colorado resorts haven't seen any snow in recent days but, on-piste at least, conditions in the likes of **Winter Park** (102cm upper base) and **Breckenridge** (132cm upper base) remain good.

Further north, **Jackson Hole** (175/200cm) saw 10cm of new snow on 18 January and is skiing as well as any of the big names out west.

By contrast, conditions in California continue to frustrate with most of the skiing in the likes of **Squaw Valley** (96cm upper base) on-piste, and even then heavily reliant on artificial help.

Canada

There have been some light snowfalls freshening up the pistes in the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (105cm mid-mountain base) in the last 48 hours- with over 20cm in **Fernie** where there is nearly 1.5m packed down up top.

Further west, **Whistler** also offers decent conditions with 27cm of new snow in the last two days and an upper mountain base of 156cm.



Plenty of snow (as you would expect) in the Banff/Lake Louise region - Photo: skilouise.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 22 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates