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Snow report

Updated: 4.30pm Thursday 5 February 2015

We are pleased to say that today's snow report is a very positive one. The northern Alps are still benefitting from the massive snowfalls of last week/weekend, with excellent top to bottom cover and (out of the wind) plenty of cold powdery snow.

On the southern side of the Alps snow cover is more modest but, on-piste at least, conditions have still been pretty good this week.

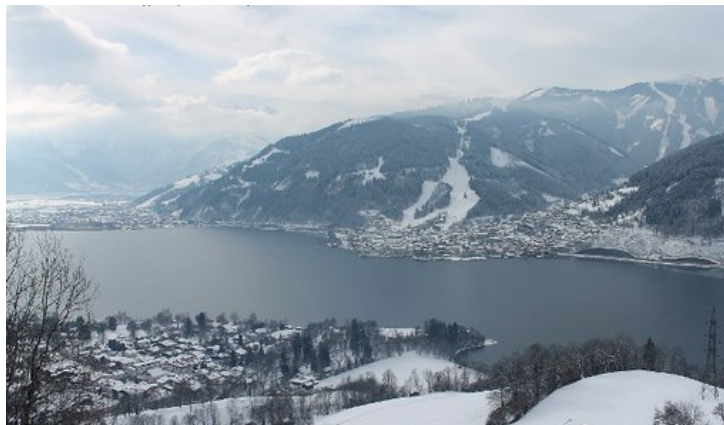
What's more snow is now falling across many southern resorts – heaviest in the south-western Italian Alps (e.g. **Sestriere**), but spreading (somewhat erratically) further east into parts of the Dolomites.

All in all it's a wintry picture, with continuing low temperatures which means little or no snow loss, even at low altitude. Just watch out for a strengthening north-easterly wind that may scour (and affect the snow quality on) some of the more exposed slopes over the next couple of days, especially in the north.

Austria

Snow conditions have been excellent in Austria this week – both high up and low down – with 65/115cm of packed powder on the slopes of **Saalbach** and 55/185cm in **Obergurgl**.

Further light snowfall is expected here and there over the next 24-48 hours and, with temperatures remaining low, prospects remain good across the board.





Excellent snow conditions, even at low altitude, in Zell-am-See - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France


Snow conditions are generally excellent with cold temperatures and ample top to bottom cover. Just watch out for some wind scouring (which can mean hard/icy snow) in exposed areas due to the strengthening north-easterly breeze.

Avoriaz has 230/280cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Méribel** has (85/175cm). The freshest snow though is further south where it is spilling over the Italian border into the Queyras and eastern Alpes-Maritimes regions – e.g. **Isola 2000** (110/150cm).


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Snowing today in Isola 2000 near Nice - Photo: isola2000.com

Italy

Generally speaking, snow depths in Italian resorts are still below par for early February. However, it is now snowing in many resorts, heaviest in the south-west where **Sestriere** (80/100cm) has already picked up 40cm of fresh with more to come today and tomorrow.

Further east, snow is also beginning to fall in the Dolomites (where it is most needed), though here accumulations will be more erratic. Snow depths in **Selva** are currently 20/100cm.



Lots of new snow in Sestriere, which has done as well as anywhere from this latest storm - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

Snow conditions are excellent just about everywhere in Switzerland – particularly so in the lower resorts of the north-west such as **Villars** (70/175cm) and **Wengen** (50/110cm) that suffered badly earlier in the season.

Further south, **Zermatt** (20/210cm) hasn't seen any really big dumps for quite some time but, on-piste at least, conditions here are still very good.

A few snow flurries are expected over the next couple of days, but nothing really significant until Sunday night/Monday.



Great conditions now in Villars, after a difficult start to the season - Photo: villars.ch

Rest of Europe

Following huge dumps at the weekend, further snow has been falling across the Pyrenees mid-week with base depths of 160/220cm now in **Arcalis** (Andorra) and 195/280cm in **Baqueira Beret** (Spain).

Bulgarian resorts are offering decent skiing right now with moderate snowfalls on Sunday, which means that **Borovets** now has 125cm of settled snow at lower levels and 160cm up top.

In Scandinavia, **Åre** (40/65cm) in Sweden is also skiing well despite the modest sounding depths, thanks to several little snowfalls. Norway, however, has the more impressive base depths with nearly 200cm up top in **Voss**.

A special mention to Scotland, where it looks like the weather is finally settling down with good snow cover and plenty of sunshine forecast over the next few days. Right now the cover is 80/140cm deep in **Cairngorm**, and 60/170cm in **Glencoe**.



Fabulous conditions in the Pyrenees following huge recent snowfalls. This is Grand Tourmalet - Photo: grand-tourmalet.com

USA

It's been snowing in Colorado, especially in the north of the state, where **Steamboat Springs** reports 40cm of fresh in 48 hours, and a mid-mountain base approaching 140cm.

Wyoming is also doing well with more than half a metre of new snow in **Jackson Hole**, where upper mountain depths are around 240cm.

By contrast, **Mammoth** in California continues to struggle. There is still some reasonable piste skiing on offer (thanks to considerable artificial help), but off-piste opportunities remain very limited. The good news is that snow is expected here over the weekend.



Fresh snow and good conditions in Lake Louise - Photo: skilouise.com


Canada

Whistler (135cm mid-mountain) continues to blow hot and cold with some new snow forecast on the upper mountain over the new days, but with mild temperatures also some rain lower down. Snow conditions are therefore highly variable, both on and off-piste.

For more consistent conditions right now you need to head inland, where temperatures are low and **Banff/Lake Louise** reports 20cm of new snow and a 135cm mid-mountain base.

Next full snow report will be on Monday 9 February 2015, but

see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates

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