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Snow report

Updated: 5.15pm Monday 9 February 2015

There is very little to grumble about in today's snow report - which is great news, considering we are approaching one of the busiest weeks of the season.

The freshest snow is in the northern Austrian Alps (Vorarlberg, north Tirol, Salzburgerland, Upper Austria) where we have seen between 10 and 30cm in the last 24 hours. The western Italian Alps also deserve a special mention, particularly the **Milky Way** (e.g. **Sestriere**) and the **Cervinia/Monte Rosa** region, where between 50 and 80cm of new snow fell at the end of last week.

Indeed most of the Alps are in great shape right now, even areas that haven't seen much snow over the last week. If there is one (relatively) weak link, it is still the eastern Italian Alps, particularly the central Dolomites (**Sella Ronda**) where snow cover is thin and problems may arise further down the line if spring decides to come early.

Talking of spring - we are in for a run of sunny and increasingly mild days this week - nothing serious, but with sun rising ever higher in the sky, expect a little softening of the snow by afternoon on low exposed slopes.

Austria

There is some fabulous skiing in Austria right now, especially in the north where fresh snow means that even the lowest resorts are in excellent shape. **Ellmau** has 80/100cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Saalbach** has 90/140cm.

The rest of the week looks dry, mostly sunny but increasingly mild, which means some softening of the snow is possible at low altitudes in the afternoons.



Excellent conditions continue in low Austrian resorts. This is Kitzbühel - Photo: kitz.net

France

There is not a lot to complain about in the French Alps right now. The sun is out and there is plenty of snow at all altitudes - just watch out for the first signs of spring snow on low slopes exposed to the sun as the week progresses. **La Clusaz** has base depths of 70/200cm while **Courchevel** has 90/150cm.

The weather should remain fine until Thursday at least, with the chance of a little snow later in the week, most likely in the south.

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



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Great conditions in the French Haute-Savoie right now. This is Combloux, near Megève - Photo: combloux.com

Italy

The best conditions in Italy are in the west, thanks to heavy snowfalls late last week. **Champoluc** (50/120cm) and **Sestriere** (120/160cm) received at least 70cm from this storm and are skiing as well as anywhere right now.

Further east, recent snowfalls have been more erratic, with cover in the Dolomites still on the thin side. On-piste at least, the likes of **Selva** (20/100cm) are still great, but don't be surprised if off-piste some greenery starts to appear on low south-facing slopes this week.



Fabulous conditions in the Monte Rosa area following heavy snowfalls last week - Photo: monterosa-ski.com

Switzerland

There are very few weaknesses in the Swiss Alps right now. The freshest snow is in the north-east – 10cm-15cm last night in **Laax**, for example, where the base is now 60/280cm depending on altitude.

Further west, **Zermatt** (35/230cm) saw 25cm last Friday and is also in great shape, as is lower-lying **Villars** (60/1450cm).

With plenty of sun in the forecast over the next few days, some softening of the snow is likely on low/exposed slopes, but more snow is possible in places towards the weekend.



Variable weather but great snow today in Disentis, near Andermatt - Photo: disentis-sedrun.ch

Rest of Europe

The weather has now settled down in the Pyrenees, which offer excellent snow conditions at all altitudes thanks to last week's storms. **Pas de La Casa** (Andorra) has 130/170cm of snow packed down on its pistes, while **Baqueira Beret** (Spain) has 215/310cm.

Bulgarian resorts are also in excellent shape, with plenty of new snow in **Borovets** (170/210cm).

There has also been new snow in **Hemsedal** (105/120cm), which is skiing as well as anywhere in Norway right now. Base depths are more modest in Sweden's leading resort **Åre** (50/70cm), but that's of little concern at these latitudes where, on-piste at least, conditions are still very good.

Scottish resorts still have good cover in the run up to half term, though increasingly mild weather is likely to mean variable snow quality. Right now **Cairngorm** has base depths of 80/140cm depending on altitude.



Good snow cover in Bulgaria. This is Pamporovo.

USA

It has also been mild in Colorado though, on-piste at least, there is still plenty of decent skiing to be had in the likes of **Vail** (112cm upper mountain) and **Breckenridge** (160cm upper mountain).

There is a little new snow in the forecast over the next few days, but this will be heavier further north in **Jackson Hole** (205/236cm) in Wyoming.

Canada

The best conditions in Canada remain inland, with new snow in the **Banff/Lake Louise** area where the upper base is around 170cm deep.

Closer to the coast, the situation is not so rosy in **Whistler** (159cm mid-mountain). There has been some new snow up top but, with the continuing mild temperatures, also plenty of rain making for some very heavy going on the bottom half of the mountain.



New snow and good base depths in the Banff/Lake Louise area - Photo: skibanff.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 12 February 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates