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Snow report

Updated: 2.20pm Monday 16 February 2015

There have been heavy but relatively localised snowfalls over the weekend. The areas that have done best are the southern French Alps (e.g. **Isola 2000**), the north and south Italian Piedmont (e.g **Sestriere, Alagna**) and central southern Switzerland (e.g. **Airolo**). These areas have seen 40-80cm of new snow over the last couple of days - locally over 1m.

Other parts of Italy have also seen some snow, but for most of the Dolomites quantities were again very disappointing. The northern half of the Alps have also missed most of the recent action but, generally speaking, conditions are still good and they look like they could be in the firing line for the next round of storms this weekend.

Austria

Apart from a few flurries in the far south of the country, Austrian resorts have missed out on the latest storm. That said, snow conditions are still generally good, especially on-piste, with 35/100cm of settled snow depending on altitude in **Söll** and 60/210cm in **St Anton**.

The forecast for the rest of the week is a dry one with plenty of sunshine and increasingly mild temperatures.



No recent snow in Zell-am-See, but conditions remain good for now - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Nearly all the snow from this weekend's storm fell in the southern Alps, where $\bf Isola~2000~(150/200cm)$ and $\bf Montgen\`evre~(140/170cm)$ offer powdery slopes and exceptional skiing at all levels.

Further north, recent snowfalls have been much more modest (non-existent in places) but, on-piste at least, conditions are still good. **Avoriaz** has 200/270cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Courchevel** has 82/129cm.

After further snow today for some southern Alpine regions it should stay dry everywhere until Friday (at least) with plenty of sun and increasingly mild afternoon temperatures.

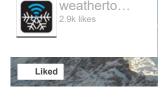


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No this is not the Dolomites, but Reallon in the southern French Alps - Photo: reallon-ski.com

Italy

Generally speaking, the Italian Alps have done best from the recent storm though there have been huge variations from one region to the next.

The central and eastern Dolomites have again missed most of the action, though there is still perfectly enjoyable piste skiing to be had in the likes of Selva(20/110cm) and Cortina (35/150cm).

By contrast, the Piedmont region has seen significant snow, both in Alagna (100/230cm) in the north and **Sestriere** (140/180cm) in the south where it was still snowing this morning.

Any snow in the south-western Italian Alps should die out tonight or early tomorrow, to leave most regions with a fine week ahead.



There have been massive snowfalls in the Italian Milky Way this weekend. This is Sestriere - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

Over the weekend there was fresh snow for the south of the country - 80cm+ in parts of Ticino, where little known **Bosco Gurin** (120/240cm) currently offers some of the best powder in the Alps.

Zermatt (25/230cm) is also skiing superbly right now though here recent snowfalls have been more modest (15cm).

Further north there has been little if any new snow but, on-piste at least, conditions are still good in Wengen (30/95cm) and Engelberg (50/380cm).

The forecast for the next few days is mostly fine with increasingly mild afternoon temperatures.



New snow in central southern Switzerland. This is Obergoms in the eastern Valais - Photo:

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees saw some snow over the weekend – 10 cm in **Soldeu** (Andorra) where base depths are now 100/150 cm depending on altitude.

Bulgarian resorts are also offering good skiing, with Borovets (190/245cm) currently boasting the most impressive depths.

In Norway it's snowing lightly in **Hemsedal** (104/122cm) which still offers excellent conditions, but more would be welcome in Sweden's **Åre** (45/55cm) where the pistes are good but the snow depths are modest.

There is still plenty of snow in Scotland (70/140cm in **Cairngorm**, for example) but the weather is highly variable with a mixture of rain, wind and some snow forecast for later in the week.



Good snow conditions continue in the Pyrenees. This is Pyrénées 2000 in France - Photo: pyrenees2000.com

USA

There have been light to moderate snowfalls over many parts of Colorado, which has helped refresh pistes in **Breckenridge** (170cm upper base) and **Winter Park** (142cm upper base) after the recent mild weather. The sun will be back mid-week though.

Elsewhere, **Jackson Hole** (193/218cm) also has a dusting of snow, but ${\bf Mammoth}$'s (61/122cm) frustrating season continues with very limited off-piste opportunities.

Canada

Temperatures continue to yo-yo with freezing levels expected to soar to 3600m in **Whistler** on Tuesday. The mid-mountain snowpack here is 144cm deep. There is some reasonable piste skiing on offer, especially up top, but not surprisingly snow quality in general is highly variable.

For more consistent snow conditions you need to head inland where temperatures are colder. **Lake Louise** has 130cm mid-mountain, while **Revelstoke** has 212cm.



The best conditions in western Canada are inland, such as here in Lake Louise - Photo: skilouise.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 19 February 2015, but see $\underline{\text{Today in the Alps}}$ for daily updates

