# **WE KNOW SNOW**



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### **Snow report**

Updated: 2.40pm Thursday 19 February 2015

The very best snow conditions are in the higher resorts of the western Italian Alps – especially **Sestriere**, **Cervinia** and the **Monte Rosa** region (**Champoluc**, **Gressoney**, **Alagna**), all of which saw big dumps last weekend.

At the other end of the scale, the least impressive snow cover right now is in the lower resorts of the eastern Italian Alps – particularly the **Sella Ronda** (e.g. **Selva**), but even here on-piste conditions are absolutely fine.

The weather is set to change this weekend with snow for many, heaviest in the western and southern Alps. This unsettled theme will also continue into next week, with the heaviest snow probably transferring towards the northern half of the Alps.

#### **Austria**

On-piste snow conditions are good or excellent across the vast majority of Austrian resorts, with just a little afternoon slush on some low altitude slopes exposed to the sun (to be expected at this time of the year).

With no significant snowfall for some time now, off-piste is more mixed.

 $\label{lem:alphach} \textbf{Alpbach} \ \ \text{has } 60/130 \text{cm} \ \ \text{of snow packed down on its pistes, while high altitude} \\ \textbf{Obergburgl} \ \ \text{has } 68/218 \text{cm}.$ 



Great conditions in the upper Tux valley - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

### France

On-piste snow conditions in the French Alps are generally excellent with just a little afternoon slush on some low south and west facing slopes.

Off-piste conditions are more mixed, but there are still pockets of fresh powder here and there if you are prepared to walk (with a guide).

**Montgenèvre** has 140/170 cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Avoriaz** has 160/270 cm.



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Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps?
Contact us and we'll do our best to answer it...

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Perfect weather and great snow conditions in Alpe d'Huez this week - Photo: alpedhuez.com

#### Italy

The high resorts of the western Italian Alps offer some of the best snow conditions around right now, though much of last weekend's powder is now tracked out.

**Alagna** (150/230cm) is skiing as well as anywhere, and **Sestriere** (140/180cm) is also offering near perfect pistes.

If there is a weak link, it is the resorts of the central Dolomites, but on-piste at least the likes of **Selva** (20/100cm) and **Canazei** (20/115cm) are still offering perfectly enjoyable skiing.



The Monte Rosa region offers some of the best conditions in the Alps right now - Photo: monterosa-ski.com

## Switzerland

Just about all Swiss resorts are in great shape this week though, just like everywhere else in the Alps, don't be surprised to come across a little afternoon slush on low altitude slopes exposed to the sun.

The very best conditions are in the high resorts of the central-southern Swiss Alps, such as **Andermatt** (75/400cm), but (on-piste at least) you will find equally enjoyable skiing in more northerly, lower lying **Wengen** (25/85cm).



Good snow cover even in the lower Swiss resorts, such as Villars - Photo: villars.ch

### **Rest of Europe**

A mild spell of weather has meant a significant thaw for Scottish resorts, though it is set to turn colder again with some snow later this week, **Glenshee**'s cover is

now patchy at car par level, but there is still 70cm deep up top.

Bulgarian resorts haven't seen a great deal of fresh snow in recent days, but half-term conditions remain good in all resorts including **Bansko** (60/225cm).

Excellent conditions are also being reported in the Pyrenees, where **Soldeu** (Andorra) has 50/150cm depending on altitude and **Baqueira Beret** (Spain) has 215/310cm.

Up in Norway, **Voss** (110/195cm) continues to impress with further significant snowfalls expected over the next week. Snow depths are more modest in Sweden's  $\mathbf{\mathring{A}re}$  (45/56cm) but, on-piste at least, there is still some decent skiing to be had.



Good skiing this half-term in Bulgaria too. This is Pamporovo - Photo: pamporovo.me

#### USA

Most Colorado resorts saw some snow earlier in the week which helped to refresh the pistes. It has since turned sunnier and milder but snow is again forecast this weekend. **Vail** has 117cm packed down at altitude, while **Breckenridge** has 170cm.

Over in Utah there hasn't been much snow in recent days, which means variable off-piste conditions in the likes of **Snowbird** (165cm mid-mountain base).

California, however, remains the real problem with an upper base of just 86 cm in **Heavenly**, much of which is man-made.

# Canada

**Whistler**'s frustrating season continues with only 4cm of new snow in the last week and nothing to speak of in the forecast. At least they have lost the excessively high freezing levels witnessed earlier in the month, but off-piste opportunities remain limited. The mid-mountain snowpack is 144cm deep.

Further inland, there has also been little in the way of snowfall in recent days, but snow quality is more consistent in the likes of **Revelstoke** (206cm upper mountain) and **Kicking Horse** (157cm upper mountain).



Dawn in Sun Peaks - Photo: sunpeaksresort.com

