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Snow report

Updated: 2pm Monday 2 March 2015

After a string of positive snow reports in February, conditions have taken a dramatic but temporary turn for the worse in some parts of the Alps – especially in the north and west where there has been heavy rain below 2000m.

Higher up this means lots of new snow but, in combination with high winds, this will only serve to complicate an already delicate avalanche situation. With some exceptions the southern and eastern Alps have avoided the worst of any rain, but have also seen less in the way of new snow.

The weather is expected to turn colder across all part of the Alps over the next few days with further snow (this time to low levels) in places, heaviest in the

Austria

Conditions are quite mixed across the Austrian Alps right now with fresh snow in places but also some rain lower down.

Söll (50/70cm) is one resort being affected by the milder weather, with wet or heavy snow on the lower half of the mountain. There has also been rain at resort level in **Lech** (90/175cm), but higher up it has been snowing.

Snow is expected to fall to increasingly low altitudes right across Austria during the middle/latter part of this week.



Rain has now turned to snow in Lech - Photo: lech.com

France

Recent rain has dampened spirits in some of the lower French resorts, such as **Morzine** (50/160cm) where the snow is wet at most levels. However, snow depths are still reasonable and conditions should improve again as the week goes on, with colder air returning.

By contrast, at altitude there is lots of fresh snow, which is great news for the likes of **Val Thorens** (130/210cm) and **Tignes** (95/155cm) - once the wild weather calms down.





31 May



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Wet today at resort level in Méribel, but colder weather is on the way - Photo: merinet.com

Italy

Italian resorts have escaped the worst of the recent rain, which has been particularly affecting some northern and western parts of the Alps. Indeed, Cervinia (50/290cm) is experiencing blizzard conditions today and should offer fabulous snow conditions once the weather settles down.

Elsewhere in the Italian Alps, **Livigno** (65/175cm) is another excellent bet. However, the central and eastern Dolomites could still do with more snow to avoid an increasingly green end to the season. Selva di Val Gardena has base depths of 15/115cm depending on altitude.



Wild today on the Little St Bernard pass above La Thuile - Photo: lathuile.net

Switzerland

At altitude there is lots of fresh snow across Switzerland right now, but lower down rain has affected the quality of the pistes, especially in northern and western resorts such as Wengen (30/115cm) and Villars (40/135cm).

That said, it is now turning colder and, when the weather settles down, there should be plenty of good skiing on offer, particularly at altitude. Zermatt(20/290cm) is one resort where nearly all the recent precipitation has been snow, St Moritz (65/150cm) is another.



Rain in Verbier, gradually turning to snow this afternoon - Photo: verbier.ch

Rest of Europe

The recent mild snap has also affected the Pyrenees where there has been some rain and snow quality is highly variable. That said, snow depths are still exceptional with 460/540cm in Piau Engaly, France.

It has also been pretty wild in Scotland, with lots of fresh snow but limited

operations due to wind. Conditions should be fantastic once things calm down, however, (perhaps mid-week) with base depths of 70/200cm in **Glencoe**.

Norway's impressive season continues with another 25cm of snow on Friday for **Voss** (110/195cm). However, Sweden's Åre (45/55cm) could do with some fresh after a relatively dry season to date.



Plenty of snow in the Pyrenees, despite the milder interlude. This is Les Angles in France - Photo: lesangles.com

USA

Snow has been falling across much of Colorado with the biggest dumps once again in southern resorts such as **Telluride**, where the upper base is now 178cm. Further north, snowfall has been more modest in **Winter Park** where the upper base stands at 155cm.

Over in Utah there has also been some snow with good skiing reported in **Snowbird** (193cm upper base), even if depths are below average by its own super-high standards.

California's difficult season continues, however, with just 86cm up top in ${\bf Heavenly}$, much of that being man-made.

Canada

Whistler's (144cm mid-mountain) frustrating season continues with no meaningful snow in the last week and very little in the medium term forecast. It is relatively cold which means hard and grippy pistes, but the off-piste possibilities are still limited.

Further inland it is colder still in **Lake Louise** (124cm mid-mountain) where there is some very enjoyable skiing to be had, with lots of sunshine on offer this week.



Cold and bright in Lake Louise - Photo: skilouise.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 5 March 2015, but see <u>Today</u> in the Alps for daily updates