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Snow report

Updated: 12.45pm Thursday 5 March 2015

Snow conditions are generally very good across the Alps right now, even if strong winds are closing some of the higher lifts today (Thursday). The best of the fresh is across the northern Alps, especially north-eastern Switzerland and Austria where it is still snowing today.

However, change is afoot as high pressure settles across the Alps this weekend and dominates the weather for the foreseeable future. This means plenty of sunshine but also, given the time of year, increasingly spring-like snow conditions, especially lower down where you can expect plenty of afternoon slush next week.

Austria

Conditions across most of Austria are excellent right now, with fresh snow falling to low levels today in the north and west. **Lech** (115-230cm) has seen 30cm in the last 24hrs alone and offers fabulous skiing both on and off-piste.

Further east, lower-lying **Kitzbühel** (76/103cm) is also in great shape, but spring is only just around the corner - with a change to freeze-thaw conditions expected this weekend onwards, possibly lasting all of next week.




Snowing today in Kitzbühel, but the sun will be back this weekend - Photo: kitz.net


France

There were snow showers across some northern French resorts on Wednesday, but that's it for quite some time now, with mostly sunny and increasingly warm weather likely to dominate for the foreseeable future.


Right now, it's already mostly sunny but still cold and windy (especially at altitude), with settled snow depths of 113/175cm in **Val d'Isère**, 70/145cm in **Megève**, and 35/150cm in **Serre Chevalier**.

Skiing should be very pleasant once the wind dies down, but a freeze-thaw cycle will set in over the weekend and into next week, especially at low altitudes.


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




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A beautiful looking day in Tignes, but high winds have closed the top lifts - Photo: tignes.net

Italy

On the whole, Italian resorts have missed the heaviest of the most recent snowfalls but there is still plenty of good skiing to be had, with the very best conditions in high altitude areas such as **Cervinia** (85/290cm) and **Champoluc** (70/200cm) – at least once today's wind subsides.

The **Sella Ronda** region remains a weak link in terms of depths but, on-piste at least, the skiing remains good in **Selva** (20/115cm), where there was even a few cm of fresh last night.

Like everywhere else in the Alps, the weather will become increasingly spring-like over the weekend and into next week - so expect some afternoon slush, especially at lower altitudes.



Sunny today in Cervinia, but high winds have closed many of the upper slopes - Photo: cervinia.it

Switzerland

Conditions are excellent just about everywhere in Switzerland, with the best of the fresh across the northern half of the Swiss Alps. **Engelberg** (55/340cm), for example, reports 30cm of powder mid-mountain, while **Mürren** (105/240cm) reports 20cm at resort level.

There was less snow this time around in the south, but **Zermatt** (20/270cm) will also be skiing superbly once the high (wind affected) lifts reopen again on Friday.

Talking of improving weather, the weekend is looking fabulous and this fine and sunny weather will continue for much of next week, with freeze-thaw conditions developing, especially at lower altitudes.



Sunny for the foreseeable future now in Crans Montana, with spring snow on the agenda as of this weekend - Photo: crans-montana.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees haven't seen much snow over the last few days but base depths are still huge, with 440/520cm in **Piau Engaly** (France) and 285/410cm in **Baqueira Beret** (Spain).

In Scandinavia, Norway continues to offer the best conditions with plenty of snow in **Hemsedal** (110/195cm), while Sweden's **Åre** has more modest base depths of 45/60cm.

Scottish ski resorts have lots of snow, with nearly a metre falling in **Glencoe** (100/240cm) over the last week. However, changeable and much milder weather over the next few days will make for highly variable snow conditions.



Huge snow depths and sunny skies in the Pyrenees. This is Font Romeu/Pyrenées 2000 in France - Photo: pyrenees2000.com

USA

Colorado resorts have seen plenty of snow over the last week, with 60cm for **Telluride**, where the upper base is now 188cm, and 70cm for **Aspen** (206cm mid-mountain base).

Utah has also done well – with 74cm in 7 days for **Alta** (229cm mid-mountain base), but **Mammoth**, California (71/107cm) continues to be way off the pace, despite 30cm of fresh this week.

Canada

Whistler's substandard season continues. There is some reasonable piste skiing on the upper half of the mountain, but very little off-piste and the mid-mountain base of 145cm is way below where it should be for early March.

Conditions are better inland (as they have been for most of the season), with a little fresh snow for the **Banff/Lake Louise** area where the upper base is around 150cm.



Better snow conditions in the interior of western Canada than on the coast. This is Sun Peaks -
Photo: sunpeaksresort.com

Next full snow report will be on Monday 9 March 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates