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Snow report

Updated: 4.35pm Monday 9 March 2015

Spring has most definitely sprung in the Alps, but it is not excessively warm, and by most standards conditions are still very good for the time of year - especially at altitude.

That said, freeze-thaw conditions are still the order of the day, especially at lower altitudes where the snow is rock hard first thing, before softening up the day goes on. This means plenty of slush by afternoon on south and west-facing slopes. Higher up, however, it is still possible to find firm grippy pistes all day long, especially on north-facing slopes.

The weather will remain pleasant (without ever being excessively warm) for the next few days before turning a little colder and potentially more unstable towards the end of the week. We are not, as yet, expecting any serious snow, but a few flurries can't be ruled out here and there.

Austria

Snow cover is still good across most Austrian resorts, though the recent sunny weather has inevitably meant that some greenery is now showing through in the lower valleys, especially on south-facing slopes.

The best conditions are at altitude in resorts such as **Obergurgl** (42/191cm) where the freeze-thaw cycle is least pronounced. Lower down, resorts such as **Saalbach** (60/120cm) are slushier in the afternoon, but here too there is plenty of enjoyable skiing to be had. The thinnest snow is in the far south - e.g. **Bad Kleinkirchheim** (20/60cm).



Snow cover remains good in the upper Tux valley in Austria - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Snow cover is still good across just about all French resorts though, with the recent sunshine, some afternoon slush has inevitably started to make an appearance at low altitude.

Morzine (70/195cm) is one resort experiencing typical spring snow conditions, but there is still some fabulous skiing to be had, particularly if you follow the sun round the mountains. For more consistent snow conditions aim for resorts where most of the skiing is above 2000m such as **Val Thorens** (130/215cm) or **Tignes** (105/157cm).

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



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Good snow cover at altitude in the Chamonix valley - Photo: companiedumontblanc.fr

Italy

Like everywhere else in the Alps, the Italian resorts have seen plenty of sun over the last few days which means that it is starting to turn green low down, especially on south and west-facing slopes. This is particularly apparent in the Dolomites where **Selva** (20/120cm) can still offer enjoyable piste skiing, but has been short of natural snow all season.

For the very best snow conditions you need to aim for resorts where most of the terrain is above 1800m, such as **Cervinia** (55/270cm), **Champoluc** (70/200cm) and **Livigno** (62/172cm).



Spring snow conditions on the lower slopes of the Milky Way. This is Sauze d'Oulx - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

Snow conditions are still generally very good across Switzerland, especially at altitude in resorts such as **Zermatt** (10/265cm) and **Davos** (62/176cm).

Lower down, the freeze-thaw cycle is more in evidence in resorts such as **Villars** (40/145cm), but even here there is good snow to be found, especially if you get your timing right!



Plenty of snow still in the Portes du Soleil, even if spring conditions are starting to take hold. This is Champéry/Les Crosets - Photo: idelec.ch

Rest of Europe

Spring has also sprung in the Pyrenees, but snow depths remain impressive thanks to the big storms earlier in the season. **Arcalis** in Andorra (180/285cm) is skiing as well as anywhere in the region right now.

Conditions remain good in Norway, with **Voss** (110/195cm) remaining the pick of the major resorts thanks to regular top-ups of snow. Further north, Sweden's **Åre** (45/60cm) also offers good piste skiing despite the more modest snow depths.

The situation in Scotland is more complicated. Rain has reduced snow cover in recent days, especially at low altitude, and although there remains plenty up high (especially in the west), violent winds continue to hamper operations across the board. **Glencoe** has base depths of 50/190cm, while **Cairngorm** has 50/80cm.



Milder weather has taken its toll on Scottish ski resorts. This is the Lecht - Photo: lecht.co.uk

USA

Most Colorado resorts are still in good shape following last week's snowfalls, even if much of the off-piste is now tracked out in the likes of **Vail** (147cm mid-mountain base). With warming temperatures, expect some spring snow conditions over the next few days.

It's a similar situation across Utah where **Snowbird** reports consolidated snow depths of 206cm, but Californian resorts continue to struggle with just 99cm mid-mountain at **Heavenly**, much of this man-made.

Canada

Whistler's (143cm mid-mountain) frustrating season shows little sign of improving with further mild weather this week and only a little snow at altitude in the medium term forecast. There is still some reasonable on-piste skiing to be had, especially at altitude, but the off-piste is highly variable and often poor.

There hasn't been a great deal of snow further inland either, but conditions have been much more consistent (as they have been all season) in the **Banff/Lake Louise** area where the upper base is around 1.5m deep.



Snow depths remain way below average in Whistler - Photo: whistlerblackcomb.com

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