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Snow report

Updated: 12.30pm Thursday 19 March 2015

Some south-western parts of the Alps saw a lot of snow earlier in the week, but the weather has now settled down again which means that spring conditions are the order of the day, especially lower down.

That said, freezing levels are not particularly high for late March which means that you can still find firm grippy snow all day long on north-facing slopes above about 2200m.

The very best conditions right now are in the higher resorts of western Italy such as **Sestriere** and the **Monte Rosa** region (**Champoluc**, **Gressoney**, **Alagna**) which bore the brunt of the recent storm.

Austria

Austrian resorts have missed out on the recent snow and, lower down at least, are in full spring mode. **Alpbach** (60/120cm), for example, still has good cover, but expect firm pistes in the morning followed by afternoon slush.

For more consistent snow conditions you need to aim for resorts with plenty of skiing over 2000m, such as **Obergurgl** (25/160cm) or **Ischgl** (10/100cm).



Spring has sprung in the lower Austrian valleys. This is Zell-am-See - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Only a handful of resorts close to Italian border have benefited from the recent storms – Isola 2000, for example, saw 25cm earlier in the week and has base depths of a healthy 125/175cm, depending on altitude.

Generally speaking, the best snow conditions are in resorts with plenty of skiing above 2000m such as **Val d'Isère** (100/160cm), with a greater emphasis on spring snow lower down in resorts such as **Megève** (60/120cm).



Bluebird in L'Espace Killy today. This is Tignes - Photo: tignes.net

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



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
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Italy

Italy offers the most contrasted conditions of the main Alpine countries right now.

The high resorts of the west, such as **Sestriere** (140/180cm) and **Gressoney** (100/240cm) offer some of the best conditions in the Alps thanks to big snowfalls earlier in the week.

By contrast, the lower resorts of the east haven't seen any major dump for quite some time, with spring firmly in control – in the lower valleys at least. **Val Gardena** (10/100cm) still has plenty of on-piste skiing on offer, but is looking increasingly green at low altitudes.



Perfect conditions at altitude in Cervinia today - Photo: cervinia.it

Switzerland

With the exception of some southern resorts, most of Switzerland hasn't seen any significant snow for some time. One resort that has seen a recent top-up is **Zermatt** (5/240cm) which, combined with its impressive altitude, offers some of the best skiing in the country.

Lower down, spring conditions are more in evidence in the likes of **Villars** (35/130cm) and **Wengen** (10/110cm), but that is to be entirely expected as we move into late March.



Fine weather but variable snow conditions in the Portes du Soleil. This is Morgins - Photo: telemorgins.ch

Rest of Europe

Snow depths remain very impressive in the Pyrenees, with 140/210cm for **Pas de La Casa** in Andorra and 255/380cm in **Baqueira Beret** in Spain, where further top-ups are expected over the next few days.

There is little or no new snow to report up in Scandinavia where base depths are 95/190cm in **Lillehammer**, Norway and a more modest 45/57cm in **Åre**, Sweden.

Scottish resorts still have a reasonable amount of snow (especially in the west), though the quality of the skiing (as always) is very dependent on the weather. **Glencoe** has 50/190cm of settled snow depending on altitude.



Still plenty of snow at altitude in Glencoe (Scotland) - Photo: winterhighland.com

USA

Some Colorado resorts have just received (or are currently receiving) a top-up of snow which will freshen things up after an extended period of spring-like weather. **Vail** has 124cm of snow packed down mid-mountain, while **Breckenridge** has 190cm.

The recent mild spell has also affected Wyoming, where **Jackson Hole** (170/206cm) reports spring snow conditions.

Canada

At last it is snowing in **Whistler** (148cm mid-mountain base), though freezing levels are not particularly low so it will be mostly rain on the lowest slopes.

As ever this season, the interior offers more consistent conditions, with fresh snow in **Banff** where the upper snow base is now 167cm deep.



Good snow cover still in the Banff/Lake Louise area - Photo: skilouise.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 26 March 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates