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Snow report

Updated: 6.30pm Thursday 9 April 2015

After a cold and, in places, snowy start to April (especially in the northern half of the Alps), spring is back in charge and will remain so (give or take) for the foreseeable future.

We say "give or take" because it will turn a little cooler over the weekend with the odd shower here or there, but we are not expecting any significant precipitation and from next Tuesday onwards it is looking like wall to wall sunshine once again.

Expect typical spring conditions over the next few days, with firm or icy pistes early in the day followed by a steady softening of the snow at a rate dependent on altitude and aspect.

If you don't know the ski area, a guide is always useful in this type of weather to show you how to "follow" the best snow around the mountain. It should be pointed out that it is still possible to find cold "wintry" snow all day long - but only on north-facing slopes above 2500m or so.

Austria

Snow cover in Austrian resorts is pretty good for early April thanks to the recent wintry spell.

However, warmer weather has now taken hold which means you need to aim high once more for the best conditions. **Lech** has base depths of 85/235cm depending on altitude, while **Obergurgl** has 30/140cm.





Still plenty of snow in the Tux valley - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

The weather has warmed up but there is still some excellent skiing to be found, especially in high altitude resorts such as **Val d'Isère** (98/190cm) and **Val Thorens** (145/255cm).

Lower down, the freeze/thaw cycle is more pronounced, and the snow cover is more patchy in the likes of **Morzine** (20/110cm), which closes for the season this weekend.


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



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Excellent snow conditions remain in high altitude resorts, such as Tignes - Photo: tignes.net

Italy

Like everywhere else in the Alps spring is firmly in control in Italy, which means you need to aim high for the best conditions.

Glaciers aside, **Cervinia** (30/290cm) and **Livigno** (30/180cm) are skiing as well as anywhere right now, but even here slush is a factor on lower slopes later in the day.



The best conditions in Italy are at altitude in resorts such as Cervinia (pictured) - Photo: cervinia.it

Switzerland

The best conditions in Switzerland are in resorts with plenty of skiing over 2500m, such as **Zermatt** (0/280cm) and **Saas-Fee** (50/390cm), though even here the lower runs are slushy by the end of the day.

Lower down, cover is more patchy in resorts such as **Villars** (20/160cm), but there is still some enjoyable skiing to be had early in the day if you time it right.



Good snow covers till in the upper Swiss Valais. This is Rosswald - Photo: rosswald.ch

Rest of Europe

Spring is also in control in the Pyrenees. That said, snow cover remains quite good thanks to bumper falls earlier in the season. Andorra's **Pas de La Casa** has base depths of 100/150cm, while Spain's **Baqueira Beret** has 120/270cm.

The sun has also been out in Norway where **Hemsedal** (108cm mid-mountain)

offers good spring skiing. Further north, Sweden's **Åre** has 60/65cm.

In Scotland only three resorts remain open. While **Cairngorm** (10/60cm) is looking a bit threadbare, the best conditions are in the west where **Glencoe** reports base depths of 30/150cm.



Snow cover is becoming very patchy in Cairngorm, Scotland - Photo: winterhighland.com

USA

In the US the big story is that lots of snow has been falling in California following one of the worst seasons on record. **Mammoth** now has upper base depths of 127cm, but it's really too little too late.

Further north and east, there has been a dusting of snow in Colorado, but more significant falls in Utah, where **Alta** (198cm mid-mountain base) reports 25cm of fresh.

Canada

Whistler's frustrating season continues with only 8cm of fresh snow over the last week and an upper mountain base of 181cm, some way below where you would expect.

Further east, conditions are better in the **Banff/Lake Louise** area (177/188cm) where temperatures are lower and there is also some fresh snow.



Only the upper half of Whistler's ski area retains decent snow cover, after a disappointing season - Photo: whistlerblackcomb.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 16 April 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates