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Snow report

Updated: Thursday 16 January 2014

It's been a pretty good week for the Alps, with new snow in many resorts, heaviest again in Italy which remains the pick of the four main Alpine countries.

That said, snow cover is still patchy at low altitude in many Austrian resorts (particularly in the north) where only "bits and pieces" of snow have been getting through from the storms further south and west.

This pattern will continue in the short term with further heavy snow in the southern Alps (and to a lesser extent the western Alps), but little (if any) in the north-east.

Austria

Most Austrian resorts have seen at least a little new snow this week with the heaviest falls in the west and far south. **Lech** (70/75cm) offers good piste skiing, but is still massively below par for what is statistically one of the snowiest resorts in the Alps.

Further east, the likes of **Kitzbühel** (30-75cm) and **Söll** (20-40cm) have also seen a little snow (5-10cm) but here the benefits will be temporary unless more snow falls soon. Best of all perhaps is **Obergurgl** (75-180cm) thanks to both its high altitude and its proximity to Italy where the heaviest of the recent snow has fallen.

The outlook is for further snow at times in the far south, but not much getting through to the resorts further north where it is most needed.




Zell-am-See, Austria - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France


Snow has fallen across all French resorts this week – typically 20-40cm above 1800m – which means conditions are generally very good. This is true both in the southern Alps e.g. **Serre Chevalier** (55/165cm) and further north, e.g. **Avoriaz** (100/170cm).

At low altitude, however, the snow pack is still a bit thin and while there is good skiing right now in the likes of **Megève** (40/140cm) and **La Clusaz** (30/190cm), more snow would still be welcome.


The forecast is for some snow over the next few days, but generally heaviest in the south.




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Fresh snow for parts of the Alps this morning:
tinyurl.com/d9cz7z2



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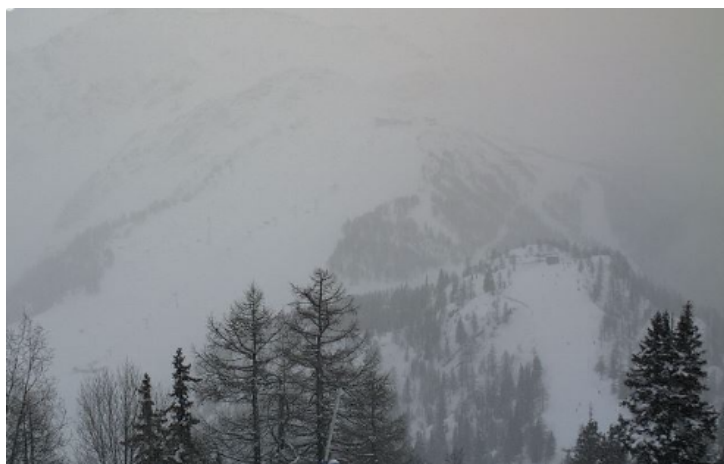
Les Saisies, France - Photo: lessaisies.com

Italy

The Italian resorts have again (on average) seen the heaviest of the snow this week and are in excellent condition across the board. The deepest snow in the Alps right now is in the upper Lombardy region, where **Madesimo** had 80cm+ this week and boasts settled snow depths just shy of 3m at resort level, and nearly 4m up top!

Further east, **Cortina** is also in excellent shape with 60cm of fresh and a snow-pack of 100/200cm depending on altitude.

With lots more snow to come across all resorts in the next few days, 2013-14 is turning into something of an Italian vintage!



Courmayeur, Italy - Photo: courmayeur.it

Switzerland

All Swiss resorts have seen fresh snow this week, typically 20-40cm above 1500m, but as much as 50cm in parts of the south-east - e.g. **St Moritz** - where settled snow depths are now 105/140cm, considerably above average for this relatively dry corner of the Alps.

Elsewhere in Switzerland conditions are pretty good - at least in the short term thanks to the new snow - but snow depths are still generally below average, including in **Crans Montana** (30/130cm) and **Engelberg** (30/230cm) to give just two examples.

The weather will remain unsettled over the next few days with the heaviest of the snow in the south.



Zermatt, Switzerland - Photo: apartment-zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenean resorts remain in good condition with a little new snow this week and more in the forecast. **Soldeu** (Andorra) currently has 90/160cm depending on altitude, **Baqueira Beret** (Spain) has 105/165cm.

Most Norwegian resorts have also seen a little snow, with good conditions reported in **Hemsedal** (90/105cm). Figures are more modest in Sweden, but there is still good piste skiing to be had in **Åre** (45/63cm).

In Bulgaria, conditions remain poor, with just 10/70cm in **Bansko** where there is some hard-packed piste skiing available but little or no options off-piste.

USA

Conditions in Colorado are excellent right now with over 80cm of fresh snow in **Breckenridge** this last week and consolidated mid-mountain snow depths of 180cm.

Utah, Montana and Wyoming resorts are also all in good shape following the recent storms, but there was only a dusting in California where the likes of **Mammoth** are only partially open and still heavily reliant on man-made snow.

Canada

Whistler is much improved after its distinctly sluggish start to the season, with over 75cm of new snow in the last seven days and mid-mountain depths of 1.5m.

The best overall conditions, however, are in the interior resorts such as **Fernie** where the snow is also fresh and upper mountain pack is now over 2m.



Fernie, British Columbia, Canada - Photo: skifernie.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 23 January 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates