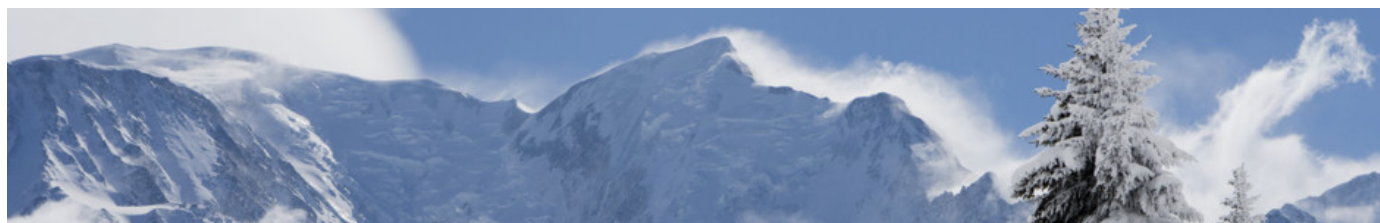




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Snow report

Updated: Thursday 26 December 2013

There have been huge snowfalls (over 1m in places) across the southern Alps, where conditions will be fabulous once the weather settles down.

Italy is now in the best shape of the four main Alpine countries with serious snow in just about all resorts. Snow has also fallen elsewhere in the Alps – heaviest in southern Switzerland - but with a few regional exceptions (mostly the far south) Austria has missed out.

After today's snow, the next major storm is due on Saturday and Sunday but will again favour the southern and western Alps.

Austria

Austria has had mixed fortunes from this latest storm. Plenty of snow has fallen in the south, 50cm+ for example in **Nassfeld** (Carinthia) where the settled snow depths are up to 130cm and conditions look very promising.

Further north, however, it's not quite so straightforward. Some snow is now falling in the western Tirol and Vorarlberg, but now depths in Lech (40cm upper mountain) are very modest for the time of year and much more is needed to really turn things around.

It's worse still north-east of Innsbruck where many of the low resorts have been ravaged by the recent warm Foehn wind and are looking decidedly patchy lower down.

You can still find some half reasonable skiing in the likes of **Kitzbühel** (35/60cm) and **Söll** (20/45cm) but as can be seen from the webcam today much more is needed, and not a huge amount is expected from the current storm.




Kitzbühel, Austria – Photo: kitz.net


France

French resorts have fresh snow in varying quantities. At midday today **Courchevel** (45/80cm settled snow) had accumulated around 20-25cm from this storm, **Avoriaz** (85/130cm) over 40cm - and the snow was still coming down.


Resorts of the southern French Alps are also in great shape with significant new snow for **Les Orres** (80/120cm) and **Isola 2000** (135/185cm).

All in all it's a much improved picture for French resorts – even if snow depths are still generally below par across much of the northern Alps. As with



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



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everywhere else, be aware of the high avalanche risk off-piste.



Les Gets, France – Photo: lesgets.com

Italy

Of the four main Alpine countries, Italy is where it's at right now with good (and sometimes excellent) snow conditions across the board. Perhaps best of all are the resorts in the central-northern Lombardy region, where **Madesimo** (210/290cm) has had another two moderate snowfalls since its record-breaking Christmas dumps.

Excellent conditions are also reported further west in **Gressoney** (90/210cm), as they are in the Italian Dolomites with 75/150cm for **Cortina** and 105/180cm in **Arabba**.

More snow is expected across all Italian resorts over the weekend with the heaviest falls again to the east.



Selva di Val Gardena, Italy – Photo: valgardena.it

Switzerland

Swiss resorts have also seen plenty of new snow, heaviest in the south where by 8.30am this morning **Saas-Fee** had clocked 62cm of fresh snow at resort level and over 80cm higher up. The settled snow depths here are 95/270cm depending on altitude.

It's a similar story in **Zermatt** and **St Moritz** with over half a metre of fresh and the prospect of epic conditions once the weather clears up.

Further north, the snow hasn't been quite as heavy (15-40cm generally) but conditions are vastly improved in both **Verbier** (20/100cm) and **Wengen** (20-75cm) and at midday today it was still snowing across virtually the entire Swiss Alps. Beware of the very high avalanche risk, particularly in the south.



Saas-Fee, Switzerland - Photo: saas-fee.ch

Rest of Europe

It's also snowing in the Pyrenees, which by and large have enjoyed an excellent start to the season. **Soldeu** in Andorra has settled snow depths of 90/170cm depending on altitude.

Most Scandinavian resorts are also enjoying fresh snow, albeit in more modest quantities. **Hemsedal** (Norway) has 45/65cm of settled snow depending on altitude, **Åre** (Sweden) has 45/55cm.



Font-Romeu, France - Photo: font-romeu.fr

USA

Some of the best snow cover in the USA is in southern and western Colorado – **Aspen** (for example) has 79/135cm of settled snow depending on altitude.

Further north, **Vail** (99cm mid-mountain) is also in good shape thanks to recent snowfall – as is **Jackson Hole**, Wyoming (104/127cm).

By contrast, Californian resorts have seen very little snow in recent weeks. **Mammoth** (76cm upper slopes) is heavily reliant on man-made snow and is currently offering limited terrain.

Canada

The best conditions in Canada remain in interior resorts such as **Fernie**, where settled snow depths are 167cm up top. By contrast, **Whistler** is considerably below par for the time of year. Most of its lifts are running, but snow cover is patchy lower down and much more snow is needed to get the area even close to being fully operational.



Fernie, British Columbia – Photo: skifernie.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 2 January 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates