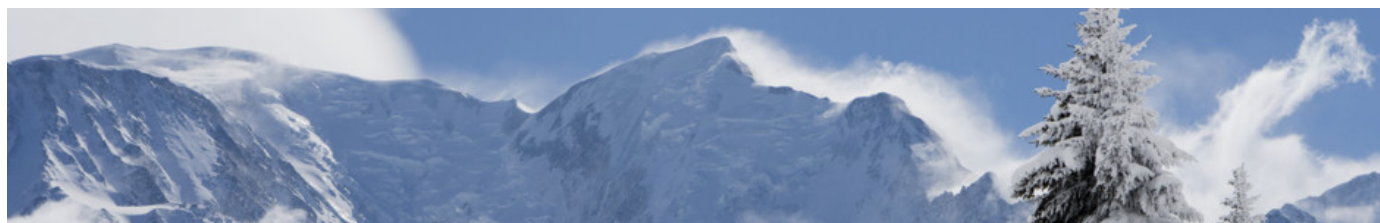




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Snow report

Updated: Thursday 5 December 2013

There hasn't been much new snow this week but, on the whole, conditions are still very good for the time of year, particularly at altitude. Parts of the northern and eastern Alps will see some snow on Friday/ early Saturday but it won't be as widespread or as heavy as once hoped, and the southern Alps will miss out completely.

High pressure will then reassert itself on Sunday and continue to dominate the Alpine scene all of next week. This will bring lots of sunshine and mild temperatures at altitude, which may start to put pressure on some resorts in the build up to Christmas.

To reiterate, however, **most** Alpine resorts are still in pretty good shape for the time of year.

Austria

On the whole conditions are still pretty good for the time of year particularly at altitude. **Obergurgl** (75/170cm) is the pick of the bunch with excellent depths at all altitudes, but **Sölden** (10/150m) and **Obertauern** (80/120cm) are also in good shape – at least on-piste.

The snow isn't just confined to resorts at altitude; some lower resorts such as **Kitzbühel** (15/65cm) are partially open too, but here figures are understandably more modest.

The good news for most Austrian resorts is that they can expect at least a little snow from the next storm (due Friday/early Saturday) even if it isn't as potent or long-lasting as once hoped.




Lech, Austria – Photo: lechzuers.com



France


Snow cover is still very good for the time of year in France, particularly (but not exclusively) at altitude. The best conditions right now are to be found in the likes of **Val d'Isère/Tignes** (45/170cm), **Val Thorens** (65/105cm) and **Les 2 Alpes** (40/160cm), all of which are mostly tracked out off-piste but still superb on-piste.


Many lower resorts have also opened a few runs (most only at weekends) including **Châtel** (30/65cm) and **La Clusaz** (0/70cm) where there is good skiing up top but more snow is needed lower down.

Unfortunately, very little snow is forecast in the French Alps over the next few days with perhaps a few cm at best in the north on Friday.





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

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Val d'Isère, France – Photo: valdisere.com

Italy

Snow conditions are excellent at altitude in the western Italian Alps, including **Cervinia** (40/185cm) and **Champoluc** (40/110cm), both of which are skiing as good as anywhere in the country right now.

Further east, conditions are more variable, but there is good piste skiing in parts of the Dolomites including **Madonna di Campiglio** (30/60cm). No significant snow is expected anywhere in the Italian Alps in the near future.



Courmayeur, Italy – Photo: courmayeur.com

Switzerland

On the whole, conditions are very good for the time of year, especially at altitude in resorts such as **Zermatt** (15/185cm) and **Saas-Fee** (25/275cm). Some lower resorts such as **Adelboden** (20-40cm) are also operational, but here more snow would be welcome.

Some snow is indeed in the forecast this Friday – mostly for the northern and north-eastern resorts (e.g. **Engelberg**) - but in more modest quantities than once hoped.



Crans Montana, Switzerland - Photo: crans-montana.ch

Rest of Europe

Early conditions are exceptional across most of the Pyrenees with numerous resorts now open, at least at weekends. Among the best bets are **Baqueira Beret** in Spain (135/185cm), where all 120km of pistes are open. Andorran resorts are also skiing superbly with 90/180cm in **Arcalis** (Vallnord) where most lifts are operational.

Snow depths are more modest in Scandinavia, but here too there are also a number of resorts at least partially open including **Ruka** (25/45cm) in Finland, **Åre** (35/45cm) in Sweden and **Hemsedal** (5/50cm) in Norway.



Les Angles, France – Photo: lesangles.com

USA

Conditions are pretty good for the time of year across most US resorts, with further snow moving south across the Rockies this week. **Vail** reports 71cm of settled snow mid-mountain and powdery conditions top to bottom. **Jackson Hole** (96cm/121cm) is more impressive still, with fabulous skiing both on and off-piste.

Further south, many Californian resorts had been a bit slow to get in on the act, but **Mammoth** reports 25cm of new snow and a base depth of 60cm and rising up top.

Canada

Western Canadian resorts have seen plenty of new snow this week, especially inland where **Fernie** now has a massive 170cm of settled snow on its upper slopes.

Further west, **Whistler** (88cm mid-mountain) is also doing well with new snow, frigid temperatures and excellent skiing, especially on-piste.



Kimberley, British Columbia – Photo: skikimberley.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 12 December 2013, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates