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Snow report

Updated: 12pm Thursday 21 November 2013

Snow conditions in the Alps are superb for the time of year, particularly at altitude and in the west. This means that resorts with lots of skiing above 2000m are now virtually assured of decent early season cover. These include **Val d'Isère/Tignes**, **Val Thorens**, **Zermatt**, **Cervinia** and **Saas-Fee**, but there are plenty more besides.

Resorts where most of the skiing is below 2000m still have plenty of work to do, particularly in Austria, but it's still very early days and the signs are encouraging.

Austria

Austria has missed out on the heaviest of the recent snowfalls but still offers excellent conditions in the high resorts that are open – especially the glaciers.

Sölden (10/120cm) has the greatest extent of skiing right now with 55km of pistes served by 16 lifts. **Hintertux** (155cm, 45km pistes) also offers plenty of variety, as does **Stubai** (15/120cm, 30km pistes).

The only entirely non-glacial resort offering any serious skiing on a daily basis is **Obergurgl** (30/90cm) where 13 lifts are in operation with skiing on a mixture of natural and man-made snow.



Kitzbühel, Austria – Photo: kitz.net

France

There is lots of fresh across the French Alps with snow still falling to very low levels today (Thursday). **Tignes** (40/220cm, 7 lifts) is still the only resort open on a daily basis but will be joined by **Val Thorens** (90/100cm) on Saturday.

Several other resorts including **Courchevel** and **La Clusaz** will also open at the weekend for an unscheduled winter "preview".

All in all it's a very encouraging situation with an excellent base already in place at altitude (especially in the northern Alps) and every chance that the weather will remain cold for some time to come.

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



17 Jun

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Praz-sur-Arly, France – Photo: prazsurarly.com

Italy

The western Italian Alps have done well from recent storms and, although it has been a bit milder further east (e.g. Dolomites), here too temperatures are falling with significant snowfall due later today.

Cervinia (30/150cm) is undoubtedly the place to be right now with over 50km of pistes shared with **Zermatt** and lots of fresh powdery snow. You can also ski on the glaciers at **Val Senales** (20/280cm, 7 pistes) and **Presana** (80/100cm, 1 piste).



Aosta valley, Italy – Photo: regione.vda.it

Switzerland

Snow cover is superb at altitude, particularly in the south-west where **Zermatt** offers the greatest extent of skiing (shared with **Cervinia**).

Saas-Fee is currently the next best option open on a daily basis, but a number of other resorts are also in operation including **Engelberg** (20/120cm, 5 lifts) **Glacier 3000** (160cm, 9 pistes) and **Verbier** (5/80cm, 4 pistes, weekends only).



Champéry, Switzerland - Photo: idelec.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees have seen masses of fresh snow prompting a whole string of resorts to open this weekend including **Les Angles** in France (opening tomorrow, Friday). Early season conditions right across the mountain chain (including in Andorra) look very promising indeed.

Elsewhere in Europe a handful of resorts are already open in Scandinavia, including **Levi** in Finland (30/40cm, 4 lifts).



Les Angles, France – Photo: lesangles.com

USA

It's not just Europe that's been getting dumped on, western US resorts have also seen lots of fresh snow with more and more resorts opening.

Among the best options right now are **Breckenridge** (71cm mid-mountain, 6 lifts) and **Copper Mountain** (76cm, 5 lifts).

Overall it's a much more promising start than we have seen in the last two years and there is snow in east coast resorts such as Killington too.

Canada

Several Canadian resorts are open and enjoying the good early season conditions. The most high profile of these is **Whistler** (67cm mid-mountain) where half a dozen or so lifts are open.

There are also a good variety of runs open in the **Banff-Lake Louise** area (41cm, 10 lifts) albeit more spread out.



Lake Louise, Alberta – Photo: skilouise.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 28 November 2013, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates