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Snow report

Updated: Thursday 7 November 2013

Welcome to our first detailed snow report of the 2013-14 season.

It's been an exciting week in the Alps with a succession of storms dumping significant quantities of snow at altitude. However, it has never been particularly cold and plenty of rain has also been falling lower down. In short, snow depths are, on the whole, significantly above average at high altitude with superb conditions on the glaciers given any breaks in the weather.

The one corner of the Alps that is still looking a bit threadbare – even above 2500m - is the south-western Italian Alps (e.g. **Sestriere**) but it's still very early days. Further storms are forecast between Friday and Sunday with the heaviest snow again at altitude and in the northern Alps though there may be accumulations as low as 1000m for a time on Sunday.

Austria

Rain and snow affected all Austrian resorts yesterday (Wednesday), the snow initially down to 1400m but only above 1800-2000m by the end of the day as milder air filtered in from the west.

This snow has added to the already impressive cover at altitude and conditions on all 8 glaciers are superb. Our pick of the bunch would be **Hintertux** where 34km of pistes are served by 15 lifts and there is 135cm of settled snow up top. Further snow is expected at the weekend, especially on Sunday where it may reach 1000m or lower for a time.



Tux valley, Austria – Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Lots of snow has fallen at high altitude this week with some significant accumulations above 2500m – although it is very windblown in places.

Below 2200m the snow turned to rain on Tuesday night but more snow is expected this weekend, as low as 1000m for a time early on Sunday.

Tignes remains the only resort open for skiing right now with superb conditions on the Grande Motte glacier (pictured) where 5 lifts are running and there is over a metre of settled snow.







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





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T: +44 (0)20 3151 3154

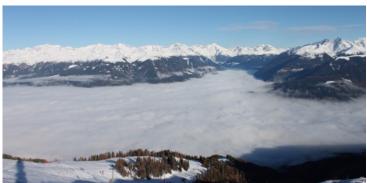


Tignes, France – Photo: tignes.net

Italy

Cervinia is now open daily for the winter season though all of the skiing is still in Switzerland on the Klein Matterhorn glacier above Zermatt.

Further east it is also possible to ski at Val Senales (6 lifts, 260cm snow) and on the Presana glacier near Passo Tonale (1 piste only, 100cm snow). All three resorts have seen lots of fresh snow this week with more expected over the weekend.



Kronplatz, Italy - Photo: kronplatz.com

Switzerland

Like everywhere else, Swiss resorts have seen lots of snow at altitude this week and conditions on the glaciers are superb - though there has also been plenty of

As usual at this time of year, **Zermatt** (6 pistes, 180cm snow) and **Saas-Fee** (5 pistes, 160cm snow) offer the greatest extent of skiing but it is also possible to ski at **Glacier 3000** (3 pistes, 80cm snow) near Les Diablerets and **Diavolezza** (1 piste, 50cm snow) near St Moritz.

Verbier will now also open a couple of non-glacial pistes in the Lac des Vaux at weekends.

Rest of Europe

A handful of small resorts are also open in Scandinavia including Ruka (Finland) where 3 runs are open and there is 15cm of settled snow.

USA & Canada

In general, early season conditions are highly promising with a steady stream of snowstorms allowing numerous resorts at least a partial opening.

These include Copper Mountain, Keystone, Loveland, Arapahoe Basin in the US and $\textbf{Sunshine Village}\ (\text{Banff})$ in Canada.

Further heavy snowfalls are again affecting much of the Rockies and the Pacific North-West (Whistler) this week. Two major resorts expected to open this weekend are Breckenridge (Colorado) and Lake Louise (Alberta).



Arapahoe Basin, Colorado, USA – Photo: arapahoebasin.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 14 November 2013, but see $\underline{\text{Today in the Alps}}$ for daily updates

