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### Latest snow report

Updated: 4.20pm Monday 21 March 2016

Conditions in the Alps remain good for late March, even if some areas haven't seen any significant snow for some time now.

With the recent fine weather, there has inevitably been something of a freezethaw cycle in progress. However, freezing levels have been relatively low recently, which means that afternoon slush has not been as bad as it can be at this time of year.

The weather did turn a fraction warmer and more humid over the weekend, which accelerated the thaw low down, but temperatures will actually drop again this week with a little snow on Wednesday and Thursday, especially in Austria.

Snow conditions across the pond also remain pretty good, especially in Colorado where there will be further significant snow this week...

#### Austria

Austria's lower valleys are turning a little green - entirely normal at this time of year – but, generally speaking, there is still lots of good skiing to be found.

Not surprisingly, the very best snow quality is in resorts with plenty of north-facing terrain above 2000m, such as **Ischgl** (30/95cm) and **Obergurgl** (35/195cm).

However, even low lying resorts such as Zell-am-See (30/135cm) are holding up ok, if you avoid lower south/west-facing areas in the afternoon.



Excellent snow conditions at altitude in Austria. This is the Molltal glacier - Photo: gletscher.co.at

### France

France offers some of the best snow conditions in the Alps right now thanks to its multitude of high altitude options.

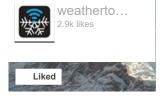
**Val Thorens** (160/280cm) and **Tignes** (145/260cm) are skiing as well as anywhere, but lower resorts such as **Les Gets** (55/210cm) are still enjoyable, especially if you time it right and follow the sun around the mountain.



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## Contact us...

Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps? Contact us and we'll do our best to answer it...

E: info@weathertoski.co.uk

T: +44 (0)20 3151 3154



Excellent pistes still in Courchevel 1850 - Photo: courchevel.com

#### Italy

Italian resorts have seen a lot of sun over the last few days but, generally speaking, snow conditions are holding up well.

Naturally the best skiing is in high altitude resorts such as **Cervinia** (50/240cm) and  $\boldsymbol{Livigno}$  (70/135cm). However, on-piste at least, cover is also still excellent in the lower lying Dolomites, where Selva has base depths of 50/110cmdepending on altitude.



Good cover still in Saint-Rhémy-les-Bosses in the Aosta valley - Photo: regione.vda.it

## Switzerland

Snow conditions remain pretty good across most Swiss resorts. However, just like everywhere else in the Alps, there is a freeze-thaw cycle in progress.

The impact of this is least noticeable in high resorts with plenty of north-facing terrain, such as **Saas-Fee** (110/328cm), but more obvious lower down and in areas more exposed to the sun, such as **Villars** (50/200cm).



 $\label{thm:conditions} \mbox{ Decent late season conditions in Zwischenfl\"{u}h in the northern Swiss Alps - Photo: wiriehorn.ch$ 

## **Rest of Europe**

Many Pyrenean ski resorts saw some fresh snow at the weekend - 25cm, for example, in Spain's Formigal on the southern side of the chain, where base depths are now 135/260cm.

Most Scandinavian ski resorts haven't seen a major dump of snow for some time now but, on-piste at least, conditions are holding up fine in leading Norwegian resort **Hemsedal** (110cm mid-mountain).

By contrast, the snow has been melting rapidly in Scotland. All five main ski areas are still open, but base depths at **Glenshee**, for example, are down to a modest 10/45cm and more snow is urgently needed for skiing to be guaranteed throughout the Easter period.



Snow melting rapidly in Scotland. This is Glencoe - Photo: winterhighland.info

#### USA

After a fine few days, snow will start up again in Colorado later on Tuesday, and will continue on and off for much of the week. This will greatly improve the already perfectly decent conditions in **Vail** (178cm mid-mountain) and **Breckenridge** (200cm mid-mountain).

Utah's **Snowbird** (241cm mid-mountain) will also see plenty of snow over the next few days, while California's **Mammoth** (275/510cm) will largely miss out (after a few cm tonight).



Good snow conditions in Keystone (Colorado) with more on its way - Photo: keystoneresort.com

## Canada

There is fresh snow at altitude in **Whistler** (340cm mid-mountain base) with more in the forecast, though as is often the case it will be wet or/rainy close to the base.

Further inland there is still some excellent skiing on offer in **Big White** (304cm upper mountain base) with more snow also forecast here mid-week.

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 24 March 2016, but see <u>Today in the Alps</u> for regular updates