



Snowpark Kitzsteinhorn: The COUNTDOWN has begun!

The preparation works for the new season are running at full speed and soon the Kitzsteinhorn will be taken over by snowboarders and freeskiers again. The image clip shows already some stunning action from the last season at the Snowpark Kitzsteinhorn and, watching it, we can't wait for the season of 2011/12 to begin. To get a first idea of what you can expect for the new freestyle season, we met park designer Stefan Plattner and asked him to tell us more.

Hello Stefan. In a few weeks, after the summer break, the new freestyle season will finally be kicked off at the Kitzsteinhorn. What was your personal highlight last season and what are you most looking forward to in 2011/2012?

The highlight of the last season was clearly the Superpipe and the long runs you could do in the park. If everything goes well, the Glacier Park will open end of October, the Superpipe will be opened as early as November with the rest of the park following in early December. This year we're going to add a special element for our rail shredders: a giant A-frame Stair Set Box. I'm really looking forward to that.

The Superpipe with a length of 150 meters is the largest in Austria, which is a huge challenge in itself. Is it a difficult task to open the Pipe as early as November this year? How are you going to tackle this task? What will the process look like?

Of course, the weather always plays a crucial role concerning the opening date of the Superpipe, but we will do our best to get it ready as soon as possible. Once temperatures have dropped low enough, we can start immediately with the snow production. Of course we will keep you updated about the exact opening date.

In summer, earth forms were finished in the Easy Park and the Central Park. What does this mean for the riders?

This means that we can finish the parks earlier. So, if the weather's on our side, we'll probably open the Easy Park and the Central Park by early December.

As park designer, you and your team know the area best, of course. But how often do you actually get to ride the park? What do you like the most?

I'm more of an old school rider – powder, pipe and kicker. Rails aren't really my thing, except to try them. The rails are really popular with the park crew, they are the jibbers.

On the Kitzsteinhorn you are the park designer of 4 parks – Easy Park, Central Park, Glacier Park and Rail Garden Lechnerberg. This job requires a lot of creativity. Where do you get the inspiration for it?

On the one hand, by talking to riders – they're always eager to suggest what we could change or how we could position the elements in a better way. On the other hand also by cooperating with the park crew; last year they were strongly involved in designing various park obstacles. The special rail set-up in the Easy Park, for example, was headshaper Lippi's idea.

Of course the Kitzsteinhorn is a fantastic area for winter sports enthusiasts. The glacier with an altitude of almost 3000m above sea level you'll get natural snow 8 months a year. What do you think makes the resort so special and why do people come all the way to the Kitzsteinhorn even from abroad?

First of all, the location – it's quite easy to get there by car because of several access possibilities and it's also really comfortable to reach the Kitzsteinhorn by train. Also, the skiing and park season on the glacier starts in early October. Then there's the opening of the Superpipe by November, which makes the Kitzsteinhorn a first-class resort. The early park season, beginning in December is another plus, as well as the XXL Freeride which can be accessed in November when there are good snow conditions. Another special on the Kitzsteinhorn: The long park lines with up to 15 elements and the lift next to the park, which takes you right back to the entrance. On this mountain you couldn't wish for more, because the supply is limitless – a great playground for young and old.

According to Stefan, seems like we are in for a really exciting season on the Kitzsteinhorn!

For more information you can visit our Website under www.snowpark.kitzsteinhorn.at, or the Kitzsteinhorn Facebook Fanpage www.facebook.com/snowpark.kitzsteinhorn.

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