

Bare slopes have Chile looking like Tahoe

By **Javiera Quiroga**, **Washington Post**

With 15 years' experience working as a waitress at the resort, Pereira can't remember the last time the slopes were this barren by mid-June. The only snow to be seen is the fake variety, put down last week for a photo shoot.

"In all my years here, the snow has never taken so long to arrive or the season so long to start," Haydee said as she stood in the deserted restaurant.

Santiago, which sits below the ski resorts, has seen just 1.2 centimeters of rain this year, 86 percent less than normal, and there is none forecast for at least another seven days. The situation gets more complicated for Valle Nevado and the other ski resorts in the Andes mountains by the capital in a week or so, when package tours start to arrive from countries such as Brazil.

People began skiing toward the end of May last year, with the resort officially opening June 14. This year there isn't so much a shortage of snow, as a complete absence.

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