# Product Review

**Product:** Performance Racing Skis

**Date:** 2023-12-25

**Customer Review**

Taking these Performance Racing Skis into ungroomed, variable off-piste terrain was a deliberate experiment, fully understanding it deviates wildly from their intended design focus, but aiming to truly understand their limitations. Tested in challenging chopped powder, wind-affected crud, and steeper ungroomed bowls at Palisades Tahoe, the experience vividly highlighted why these are specialized tools. Their inherent stiffness, minimal tip rocker, and narrow waist – all assets on firm snow – become significant liabilities off-piste. They offer virtually zero floatation, tending to dive beneath softer snow rather than plane above it.

The stiffness prevents them from flexing and absorbing variations in the snow surface, resulting in a jarring ride where they deflect violently off hidden obstacles, submerged chunks of snow, or sudden density changes. Controlling them demands constant vigilance, significant physical power to muscle them through difficult snow, and precise technique; any lapse results in being easily knocked off balance. Turn initiation in variable snow requires considerable speed and deliberate, high edge angles, making them completely unsuitable for navigating tight trees, steep bumps, or any terrain requiring quick pivots or smeared turns. They simply do not want to turn easily unless actively carving on a relatively consistent surface.

However, on the rare stretches of smoother, wind-buffed snow where it was possible to open them up and achieve higher speeds, their race-bred stability and tenacious edge hold were still undeniably apparent, offering a glimpse of their on-piste prowess. This experiment decisively confirmed their highly specialized nature. Attempting to use these as genuine all-mountain skis is an exercise feasible only for the most technically skilled, physically strong, and arguably masochistic skiers who relish a challenge. They unequivocally belong on firm groomers or dedicated race courses, the environments where their specific strengths can truly shine and their off-piste limitations become entirely irrelevant.