



December 1st, 2008

You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your money, unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you. - Ruth Smeltzer

Dining out Spotlight



Texas de Brazil reflects authentic South American churrascaria dining experience with a feast of meats, wines and gourmet salad bar items

Texas de Brazil Churrascaria - Memphis writes...

Treat yourself to our sumptuous fifty item salad area including sushi, soups, salads and side items. Enjoy the house baked Brazilian cheese bread and our signature cocktail, the Caipirinha. Let one of our in-house wine connoisseurs select the perfect wine pairing from our extensive, award-winning wine list. Turn your card to green and prepare to be swarmed by a troop of carvers generously serving various cuts of sizzling beef, lamb, pork, chicken, and Brazilian sausage. These delicious cuts are slow roasted over an open flame and accompanied by garlic mashed potatoes and sweet fried bananas. Enjoy a dessert selection, then relax with an after dinner drink, espresso, or hand rolled cigar. With service, feasting, and an ambience as such, it is more than fine dining...it is Texas de Brazil.¹

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¹ www.opentable.com November 27, 2008.



COMMODITY REPORT

AVOCADO

Mexican fruit – Supplies crossing into the states continue at a steady pace. Quality is nice. **MARKET STEADY** **Chilean Fruit** - Chilean fruit supplies are little lighter this week and through next week, but will improve with the arrival of a new vessel by the end of next week. **MARKET FIRM.**

BELL PEPPERS

Eastern Bells: As temperatures in the southeast warm up, the pepper market has been starting to loosen up. Expect a very slow but steady drop in prices as Florida continues to come into better volume.

BERRIES

- **Strawberries:** strawberry production this week has drastically slowed due to rain from Salinas to Oxnard. This will have effects for the balance of the week as shippers will be very short on product. We can expect to have orders adjusted and possibly moved to different loading locations or different loading dates. Quality will be marginal at best and some shippers are already expressing that they don't want to travel too far due to quality. There is Mexican fruit available in McAllen TX and Florida currently and we can expect local Florida crop anywhere within the next two weeks. **MARKET STEADY.**
- **Raspberries: NO CHANGE,** Raspberry production is increasing with Mexican product becoming steadier with reports of quality good to occasionally fair. We can expect to see more volume filter up as Mexican production continues with South America soon to follow. **MARKET LOWER**
- **Blackberries: No Change** Blackberry production from Mexico is up to speed with consistent transfers from Mexico and landing two to three times a week and Mexican product into Los Angeles. There is significantly more product and current fobs are reflecting so. There are a handful of shippers with very aggressively priced blackberries due to heavy deliveries. Reports of quality have been good. **MARKET LOWER.**
- **Blueberries:** Shippers are continuing cutting back on how much product they are bringing up and some shippers are making moves to clean up on what inventory they are sitting on. Argentine growers are taking the stance that if shippers can not get at least around sixteen dollar fob then they will stop sending up product. On the other hand there are some shippers aggressively trying to clean up what product they have. We can expect some kind of a gap as shippers stop flying product up and start shipping up on boats. This will be a longer travel time and will give shippers more time to work through supplies ultimately bringing the market back up and in a stronger position. We can expect a higher market next week. **MARKET STEADY**

BROCCOLI

NO CHANGE The broccoli supplies are better to start the week. There are still some suppliers that are finishing up harvesting in Salinas. Santa Maria and Yuma are in production with better supplies expected at the end of the week. The Thanksgiving pull is finished and the market has softened. Supplies will be better on crowns in Yuma at the end of the week. **MARKET LOWER**

CARROTS

Quality and availability continue to remain steady on the West Coast. Harvest is still coming out of Bakersfield. **MARKET STEADY**

CAULIFLOWER

NO CHANGE This market continues to be active. Although the holiday pull is over, supplies look to be tight throughout the week. Salinas is just about finished up and Yuma and Santa Maria are light in availability. Please keep in mind that growers have cut back on acreage in Yuma on this commodity which will make this market very up and down throughout the season. **MARKET STRONGER**

CELERY

NO CHANGE This market is steady to start the week. Salinas will continue to have light supplies throughout the week with Oxnard having heavier production. Demand is light as most of the holiday pull has occurred. There are no shortages on any size. The quality in Oxnard has been reported to being good in terms of quality and texture. **MARKET STEADY**



COMMODITY REPORT CONTINUED

CITRUS

- **Lemon:** Supplies are very good on all sizes except for 95ct. Quality and condition are good. **MARKET STEADY**
- **Oranges:** Supplies of Valencia's are day to day as shippers are packing if demand dictates. Navels are going with all shippers. Quality is very good. Volume is peaking on 72ct, 88ct. **MARKET STEADY**

CUCUMBERS

- **Western Cucumber:** Nogales shippers are getting better supplies in from Mexico. Still looking at increasing supplies over the next few weeks. Demand is good. **MARKET LOWER**
- **Eastern Cucumbers:** The cucumber market is coming off slowly as Florida begins to produce better volume. However, minimal acreage has been planted this year, so anticipate the market to hold at the higher levels for several more weeks.

GRAPES

Winter rains have arrived and grape shippers are all but done on fresh Grape harvests. All of the fruit to be harvested is in and now will be coming from controlled atmosphere storage. There is still very good supplies of fruit available and will be right into the transition to Chilean grapes. Most all green seedless grapes will be shipped in the 16# storage cartons including Thompson, Princess and Autumn King Varieties. Black Seedless, Red Globe Seeded and Calmeria Green Seeded grapes are still available in very good supplies as well! There are some imported green seedless from Brazil hitting both the east and west coasts, but F.O.B. pricing is much higher than that of the domestic storage green seedless, making the transition to imported fruit a little difficult at the present time. **MARKET STEADY**

GREEN ONIONS

NO CHANGE Supplies continue to be good out of the Mexico region. The market remains stable. Defects such as decay have been minimal last week as production numbers increase. Light production continues out of California. **MARKET STEADY**

MELONS

- **Cantaloupes** – The domestic melon deal is all but finished with the exception of floor counts on certain sizes. Rain in the current growing areas and lack of fruit maturity has put finish to any and all product still left to harvest. Mexico production continues very light, and their production will be finished shortly. There are light supplies of offshore (Honduras)* fruit available, even in this shortened week out of Florida. Expect overall Cantaloupe supplies to remain somewhat light with the offshore supplies slowly increasing over the coming weeks and demand to remain only moderate. **MARKET LOWER**
- **Honeydews – No Change** The honeydew market remains at low levels with shippers looking to move volume in the ALL sizes. Heavy supplies from Mexico and offshore fruit arriving from Central America as well as light demand have the market holding at the bottom. Overall production on Honeydews excellent and will continue that way through this week. Sugar levels will continue to be very sporadic, but overall fruit quality is still very good!

POTATOES

Several sheds are continuing to only load Burbank's this week. Packing will be done Wednesday and shippers will start packing again on Monday, December 1 so loading will be a slow go come Monday with no hold over. There is still limited availability this week on Norkotahs. Wisconsin and Colorado still have good supplies and quality. Colored potatoes are loading out of Washington, North Dakota and Wisconsin with good supplies and quality.

MARKET STEADY

SQUASH

Eastern Squash: The squash market should hold at the higher levels for several more days as Florida continues to struggle to produce enough volume.

TOMATOES

Eastern: Palmetto Ruskin growing area is becoming more of a producer with tomatoes. We are seeing lower fob in FL currently, possibly due to the dynamics of the holiday and shippers not wanting to be caught with inventory. We can expect to see better production in FL also due to a bit warmer temps. **MARKET LOWER.**