



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AND COMMODITY REPORT

AUGUST 24TH 2009

RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT

PANINI PETE'S Fairhope, AL



Panini Pete's is Fairhope's original Panini Sandwich Café and Bakeshoppe. Chef Pete Blohme, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, brings creativity to his menu of sandwiches, burgers, salads, soups and wraps. Open for breakfast Monday through Saturday from 8am to 10:30 and for lunch from 11am to 2:30, you'll find crowd favorites like the "French Poodle" (a Vienna beef hot dog with onion confit, and Dijon mustard), hand made burgers and the famous "House Roasted Turkey Panini" or "Seared Turkey Panini." Panini's so good, they got Food Network star Guy Fieri all the way to Fairhope. That's right, Chef Blohme and Panini Pete's were featured on Guy's hit show, *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* episode "Real Deal Fast Food."

www.paninipetes.com
42 1/2 S Section St # 2
Fairhope, AL 36532
251-929-0122





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MARKET REPORT

ITEMS TO WATCH -- MARKETS VOLATILE, PRICES UP						
Asparagus	Blackberries	Blueberries	Cantaloupes			
Cucumbers	Leaf Lettuce	Squash	Stonefruit	Tomatoes		
ITEMS TO WATCH -- MARKETS GOING DOWN/STEADY						
Apples	Avocado	Bell Peppers	Broccoli	Carrots		Cauliflower
Celery	Citrus	Grapes	Green Onions	Kiwi	Honeydew	Iceberg
Onions	Pears	Potatoes	Raspberries	Strawberries		Watermelon

Spinach will be in light supplies throughout this week. Growers are having a difficult time with mildew issues on both organic and conventional product. Suppliers are holding to 12 week averages on conventional product.

APPLES/PEARS

CA Fuji Apples have started in a light way with some bagged fruit and limited tray pack cartons. There are imported Fuji apples also available loading in L.A. or the East Coast. CA Gala Apples are going now with good supplies. Washington new crop Gala apples have started in a light way. Red Delicious supplies are very tight. They continue to come out of storage in high color. Gold Delicious apples are now packing light supplies in the Ginger Gold and Early Gold varieties. Washington Anjou pears are finished for the season, but Bartlett Pears have started to alleviate any gaps on green pears. California Pears are going strong with the Bartlett variety and continue to promote with volume on the smaller sizes. California Bosc, Golden Russet Bosc, European Bosc, Asian and Stark Crimson Pears are also going with good supplies.

ASPARAGUS

The market for Mexican product continues to be active. Pricing is much stronger compared to Peruvian product loading out of Miami direct. Mexican grass is expected to be in light supplies on all sizes over the next two weeks. Peruvian grass is in a gap for another week as production moves from the northern region to the southern region. After this period, supplies will be strong again.

AVOCADO

We are seeing the shift to imported fruit from Chile and Mexico. California is winding down their season quickly, and Chilean and Mexican supplies are improving.

- **Mexican Fruit:** New crop crossings continue to improve, with supplies of 60's and smaller in good volume. Please note that early new crop oil content will be low and require additional time for ripening.
- **California Fruit:** California growers continue to pack light numbers, and many growers have finished with this years crop. There should be limited amounts available through the balance of the month.
- **Chilean Fruit:** Supplies of Chilean fruit are good, mostly smaller sizes now, with larger sizes by the end of the month. Fruit has early season characteristics, but will steadily improve in eating quality as we get further into the season.

BELL PEPPERS

Eastern Bells: The pepper market is steady as Michigan and Ohio are in good supply with all sizing readily available. Quality is excellent and the market is expected to remain at the current levels for the balance of the week.



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BERRIES

- **Strawberries:** Production is inconsistent as we enter this week. Some shippers have decent supplies where others are walking in sold out. We are still experiencing moderate bruising at shipping point. The days are now getting shorter and we can expect quality to be fair and production to be moderate compared to months previous. We are getting close to the southern growing areas coming on line again, and as we get more detailed information to the start date, we will let you know.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberry production remains steady. Most to all shippers have good supplies. There are no major happenings with production. Local production quality has been good.
- **Blackberries:** We are continuing to see irregular local California production in the Salinas and Watsonville areas but are expecting a bit of a decline, as Mexico and Guatemala are not sending enough fruit up to ease the demand. . All growing areas have slowed and shippers are cutting back orders...
- **Blueberries:** Production In the Northwest has been disrupted as Oregon and Washington are done harvesting a bit early due to excessive heat. British Columbia continues to produce at a lower than normal rate due to some recent rain slowing things down. There are still good quality and supplies in Michigan. Things may become a bit tight until we start to see the offshore fruit arrive around mid September. We can expect to see higher fobs.

BROCCOLI

Supplies are strong on production in both bunched broccoli and crowns. Deals can be made on volume orders. Demand continues to be on the lighter side. Sharper pricing continues to be seen out of the Santa Maria region. The quality overall continues to be good.

CARROTS

California carrots are coming out of Bakersfield with good supplies and quality.

CAULIFLOWER

This market is stable. Some suppliers have started the week with larger volumes of product to sell and are looking to move product. The quality has been better with less yellow and brown spotting seen upon arrivals. Santa Maria and Salinas continue to be the main areas of production. Pricing is competitive in both areas.

CELERY

Supplies are still plentiful on all sizes. The 24 counts continue to have the largest volume, but all sizes are abundant to fill orders. Deals still can be made on 24s in particular on load volume orders. Michigan continues to have production. The supplies from this region should be good thru the week. The quality continues to be strong in all growing regions.

CITRUS

- **Lemons:** Supplies of large sizes continue to tighten. Availability continues to look good on 140's and smaller. Summer demand continues to keep prices firm.
- **Limes:** Sizing on pack outs are running to smaller sizes. Demand is good. Quality remains good, with lighter color which is a characteristic of the summer crop.
- **Oranges:** Demand is increasing on small choice fruit as schools begin. Supplies of these small sizes will continue to tighten. Quality remains good.

CUCUMBERS

Eastern Cucumbers: Supplies are plentiful, quality is good, demand is low and the long stretch of bottom level markets is forcing shippers to try to push the market up. This push will continue through the week.

GRAPES

Flames are all but finished with a few select styro lots being the only ones left. Crimson and Ruby red seedless are starting to increase in supply. Green seedless varieties (Princess and Thompson) continue to produce very good supplies and quality is excellent! There are also beautiful Black Seedless and Red Globe Seeded grapes available! They are all available from the Fresno, Delano, Arvin and Bakersfield districts with excellent quality. Temperatures continue mild in these growing areas and are conducive for excellent quality fruit. Demand remains strong for both red and green seedless, but supplies are strong as well. The markets should remain steady again this week.

GREEN ONIONS

This market has eased up. Supplies are better out of Mexico than the previous week. Supplies are expected to be strong in September. Pencil sizes are still the largest volume available. The quality continues to be good with no significant problems to report.



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KIWI

New Zealand Kiwi is still going strong and they are in good quality and supply. Chilean Kiwi remains available but in light supply as we approach September. The market will remain steady again this week.

LEAF LETTUCE

Suppliers are reporting light numbers to start the week on romaine. This commodity will be light in availability throughout the week. Romaine hearts will also be on the light side, especially forty-eight counts. Expect light numbers in production throughout the week. There is good availability on all other leaf items. The Salinas Valley had some rain over the weekend. The rain limited harvesting on the weekend.

LETTUCE

This market is stable. Some suppliers are stronger in production numbers but overall, supplies exceed demand. Supplies look to be moderate throughout the week. Supplies will tighten up with a big push but for now the market is stable. Light weight issues are less compared to the previous week. There have been a few issues with tip burn upon arrivals.

MELONS

- **Cantaloupes:** Mild weather continues in the Central Valley and fruit continues to pack out heavier to the big fruit (12's and LARGER). Fruit is peaking on the 9ct size again this week and there are only light supplies of small fruit available. Demand remains strong across the board on all sizes and looks to be that way through the week. There continues to be regional melons available, but only in light supply and not in demand like the Westside deal. The market is up to start the week on most all sizes and could continue that way into next week. Fruit quality remains excellent with high sugar levels.
- **Honeydews:** Honeydew supplies remain steady again this week and demand continues only moderate. The larger sizes (5ct and JBO 5ct) are still more readily available and there are deals available. Quality continues excellent in honeydews with creamy white color, good solidity and high sugar levels.

ONIONS

Idaho/Oregon with better availability this week on red and yellow and still limited on, greening will continue to be a factor on these early onions. The skins will get better over the coming weeks. Huron is still going with very limited supplies; they will be cleaned up by the end of the week. Washington has limited supplies with export coming in and loading heavily. There are some limited supplies out of Colorado and Utah.

POTATOES

New crop Norkotahs have started in Idaho with several more sheds starting up this week. Burbanks are all but done for the season with only a handful of sheds cleaning up. Norkotahs have a much larger size profile than the old crop Burbanks so there will be much better availability on the larger cartons and the small sizes will hold steady prices. New crop product is very nice looking and the 2's will be limited. All new crop will be Norkotahs. Washington new crop Norkotahs are going strong with good quality and good availability. Colorado has limited supplies of old crop and quality is still good. California colored potatoes still available with very good quality. There are supplies available out of Stockton and limited Bakersfield availability. Southern Washington is going with good availability on reds and yellows. Mount Vernon, Washington will start up this week with limited availability.

SQUASH

Eastern Squash: Squash supplies are steady out of the upper mid west. This week's slightly higher market will continue its upward trend through the week as the northeastern growing regions wind down.

STONE FRUIT

Nectarines and Black Plums continue to be very tight with only light production. Demand is still very strong and the market remains at higher levels for both Nectarines and Plums. Peaches are where the deals are and there are still very good supplies available. Washington is also going now on Peaches and Nectarines with increasing production over the next 7-10 days.

TOMATOES

Eastern: Tomato availability has become tighter this week with less volume being harvested in major growing areas. Shippers are having difficulties filling orders, especially on the XL fruit and Romas.



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WATERMELONS

Regional as well as California Watermelons are still available, but overall supplies are only moderate. For California, Bakersfield remains the peak production area for both seeded and seedless watermelons, but there is still a projected drop in volume over the next 14-21 days. Markets remain strong and demand strength continues as well. Quality is very good for both seeded and seedless.

VALUE ADDED

Issues continue to be seen with some processors on romaine and lettuce. Fringe burn is the biggest issue. Some light bruising has also been reported on chopped romaine. Broccoli processors are steady with supplies and availability. Complaints have been minimal on green onions, and production numbers should increase this week.