



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AND COMMODITY REPORT

OCTOBER 12th, 2009

### RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT

# Interim

## RESTAURANT & BAR

"A brief respite in time..."

Interim Restaurant & Bar opened in Memphis, TN in 2007 and has quickly earned a name for itself as one of the best restaurants in the city. A highly visual state of the art kitchen is fused with the dining rooms to enhance the relationship between Executive Chef Jackson Kramer and his audience of patrons.

Born and raised in midtown Memphis, Kramer began working in the restaurant industry after high school, and not long after that first job, he realized his passion for food and packed his bags and moved to Portland, OR, where he attended Western Culinary Institute, a Le Cordon Bleu-based program. In Portland, he worked under Chef Eric Laslow at Laslow's NW, and finished his externship at Criolla's in Grayton Beach, FL, working with Chef Johnny Earles. His love for local, organic and sustainable took him to Richmond Hill Inn in Ashville, NC, but eventually brought him back to his Memphis roots with Interim. Kramer has a passion for local food and was recently named as the Local Hero in the Chef / Restaurant category from *Edible Memphis* magazine.

With everything from the convenient businessman's boxed lunches to their famous Mac & Cheese casserole, as well as local favorites like Fried Green Tomatoes and Grilled Mississippi Quail, Interim offers creative dining in style. Interim is open for lunch Monday through Friday, Sunday brunch and dinner seven days a week.

To find out more about Interim, please visit [www.interimrestaurant.com](http://www.interimrestaurant.com).

5040 Sanderlin Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38117



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**MARKET REPORT**

**ITEMS TO WATCH -- MARKETS VOLATILE, PRICES UP**

Lemons	Cauliflower	Apples	Cantaloupe	Blackberry	Honeydew	Blueberry	Broccoli
Oranges	Sno Peas			Sugar Snap Peas		Lettuces	Watermelon

**ITEMS TO WATCH -- MARKETS GOING DOWN/STEADY**

Asparagus	Potatoes	Onions	Green/Red Peppers
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**APPLES/PEARS**

Small sized apples in all varieties remain extremely tight as the new crop continues to yield large fruit in the pre-size bins (peaking on 88's and larger). This looks to continue throughout the entire season. Red Delicious supplies continue very tight in Washington especially on the small sizes. California Granny Smith apples continue to be packed in decent supply and there are also light supplies Fuji and Braeburn which could finish this week. Beware; small sizes are also tight for California apples as the storage crop yields large fruit! There are other areas in the Northeast (including Michigan and New York) going on red 'typed' apples, and demand for those is very good as well, especially in the limited supply of small sizes. Gold apples remain extremely tight as well with the transition continues to the new crop Gold Delicious. Anjou Pears are going with better supplies in Washington this week and Bartlett pears are still going strong. There are also now varietal pears including Bosc, Seckel, Comice and Red Pears. California Bartlett Pears are all but finished for the season.

**ASPARAGUS**

The market on Mexican product is stable compared to the previous week. Peruvian grass has a much sharper price on all sizes compared to Mexican product. Jumbo sizing is much more readily available out of Peru.

**AVOCADO**

Mexico's harvest is improving. Chile is going with good steady supplies. We are still at early-season maturity levels from both countries, but improving, so ripening will take longer and checked boarding will be a problem.

- **Mexican Fruit:** Supplies continue to improve, but Mexican growers are still being cautious about fruit that does not have the maturity levels needed.
- **California Fruit:** Next years crop looks much larger than this year's, and should be ready to begin late December / early January.
- **Chilean Fruit:** Chilean fruit supplies are steady; sizes peaking on 50's and 60's. Larger sizes are improving. Fruit has early season characteristics, but will steadily improve in eating quality as we get further into the season.

**BELL PEPPERS**

**Eastern Bells:** Pepper in Georgia continues to be limited to larger sizes, with the quality remaining good. Market is still strong, with good demand, as Northern peppers are finishing up. Quality better with the Southern product, and volume should increase this week.



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### BERRIES

- **Blackberries:** Blackberries are gapping and we are continuing to see irregular local California production in the Salinas and Watsonville areas. Guatemala is sending fruit into Miami, but is not sending enough fruit up to ease the demand, but we may see an increase from Mexico within a week or two.
- **Blueberries:** Oregon and Washington are done, with the only fruit available being Controlled Atmosphere with diminishing quality. Michigan also is working off of Controlled Atmosphere fruit with the same attributes as the North West (tired fruit). The off shore fruit has been delayed by about 10 days and can expect to see the first of Argentina fruit by October 12<sup>th</sup> with much higher fob's than we are currently seeing. The majority of pack size will be 4.4oz to start them moving into the bigger packs as production increases.
- **Strawberries:** Production this week remains low. Quality continues to be the factor of declined production in the northern Salinas / Watsonville area, as shippers are leaving a good portion of fruit in the fields. We can expect to see softer, over ripe and bruised fruit, as the plants are at the end of their life cycle and fruit will be weak. Oxnard is now going with small quantities (4-6 plts) of new crop fruit that should provide some relief for availability and certainly better quality. Production will continue to decrease through October in the Northern areas. Volume is increasing in Oxnard and should be up to full production by the week of Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. Mexico will begin to ship fruit from Yuma AZ and McAllen TX by mid to late October.
- **Raspberries:** Raspberry production is not heavy but is consistent, quality remains good. There is California production in Watsonville and some in the southern areas. We can expect some light production out of Oxnard by the second week of October followed closely by Mexico.

### BROCCOLI

Nothing has changed. This market continues to be active on all broccoli items. Suppliers will be light all week and will prioritize covering contract business before open business. Suppliers are gapping in production out of the Salinas valley. Santa Maria is also light in supplies and there are not any deals that are being offered. Next week will be extremely light on all broccoli items. Broccoli crowns are so small with some suppliers that they are asking to substitute with bunched product so please be aware.

### CARROTS

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

### CAULIFLOWER

Nothing has changed from the beginning of the week. Supplies will be light throughout the week on this commodity. Light supplies continue to be in the forecast for the next seven to ten days. Demand exceeds supply. The biggest problem is simply that growers are gapping in production in all growing regions. Slight yellowing has been reported sporadically upon arrivals. Pricing is active in all areas.

### CELERY

This market is stronger and the four to five dollar price spread among the growers we have seen the past two weeks has gone away. Some suppliers are stronger on 24 counts while others continue to be stronger on 30s and 36 counts. Supplies are coming out of the Salinas and Santa Maria growing regions. The quality continues to be strong with no major issues to report. Oxnard is expected to begin production approximately the first week in November.

### CITRUS

- **Lemons:** Supplies of large sizes continue to be tight. Availability continues to look good on 115's and smaller.
- **Limes:** Supplies are good this week. Sizing on pack outs are still running to smaller and mid sizes. Large sizes (110's and 150's) still limited. Demand is good. Quality remains good.
- **Oranges:** Demand is very strong, and demand continues to exceed supplies on 88's, 113's and 138's and expect it to stay this way until navels start. Navel crop is 16% larger than last years crop, but is still lighter than average. Anticipated start of Navels is mid to late October.



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### CUCUMBERS

**Eastern Cucumbers:** Volume in Georgia remains good, with prices being steady in most areas. Florida has started with a few cucumbers. Quality seems to be good, and volume should increase as the deal starts to pick up during the next week.

### GRAPES

The Central Valley Grape supplies remain very light especially on the red seedless varieties of Crimson, Scarlet Royal, Sweet Scarlet and Premium Reds. Supplies look to remain very sporadic on red seedless grapes and there continues to be only light supplies available compared to the demand. Green seedless grapes are mostly only 16# storage Thompson/Autumn King and the market is strong. Green seedless quality is also only fair as we enter the fall storage crop. Still showing at shipping point as well as arrivals in the green seedless are slight amber discoloration, light shatter and occasional scarring in many lots. Demand looks to remain strong for both red and green seedless, and supplies will remain light. The market will also continue strong and most likely remain that way for the balance of the domestic grape season.

### GREEN ONIONS

This market is stable. Supplies are good with most suppliers. This market is no longer double digits in pricing. Pencil sizes are still the largest volume available. The quality continues to be good with no significant problems to report.

### KIWI

The transition is almost complete to all new crop California fruit. Overall supplies will remain light throughout the week with supplies transitioning to Central California shipping points. The market will remain strong this week with increased demand, but should let up next week with better supplies available.

### LEAF LETTUCE

Supplies are getting lighter on romaine and romaine hearts. This market is stronger. Some reports continue to surface on fringe burn being seen upon arrival. There have also been reports that the chopped romaine is not as strong as in past months. Green and red leaf is also stronger in the market as supplies have also tightened. It is important to note that as the season winds down; all the leaf items tend to have a shorter shelf life due to the crop being tired. Huron is expected to start the third week in October followed by Yuma beginning the second week in November.

### LETTUCE

This market is active. Most suppliers are extremely light in supplies. Lightweight on the lettuce is an issue. Some suppliers are going into fields and harvesting product that is too young. The lettuce is puffy and light weight but because demand exceeds supply, it is happening. Please be aware that lightweights will be an issue for this week and likely into next week as well. All reports tell us supplies will be tight the entire week.

### MELONS

- **Cantaloupes:** The Westside deal is quickly coming to a close with now only a few select shippers packing fall fruit and they will be done by the end of this week. Peak sizing is still on 9's and 12's and there are decent supplies of those sizes available! The regional melon deals have finished up and the pressure is on for the remaining California production and the extremely light new crop Arizona production. With the Arizona districts just getting started and colder weather, expect only light supplies from there through the entire week. The market has strengthened on ALL sizes and small fruit is in very tight! Fruit quality remains good with decent sugar levels. Look out over the next 7 days as the Westside deal finishes and the desert shippers struggle to keep up with demand.
- **Honeydews:** Honeydews are in a demand exceeds supply situation and will remain that way most likely well into next week. The Westside deal is all but finished, Mexico is only just starting in a light way and Arizona is 75%+ down on their estimates on what supplies were to be available this week. The desert, with the colder weather has pushed back their production start and there are virtually no supplies for a few days. Nogales, AZ does have a few large sizes (5/6ct)\* but they are just starting this week as well and there are only extremely light supplies at best. The market is very strong!



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### **ONIONS**

Idaho/Oregon continues with very good availability this week on red, yellow and whites. Most have finished or will be finishing harvest this week. The yields seem to be down a bit from last year so we may see some strength in this market. Quality is good. Washington supplies are very good with good quality as well. There are good supplies available out of Colorado and Utah.

### **POTATOES**

The weather does not seem to have had as much of an effect on the supply as was anticipated which may just be due to the light demand. There are limited supplies of Burbanks available with Norkotahs still the main varietal. Washington new crop Norkotahs are going strong with good quality and availability. Colorado is going strong with new crop supplies as well. Southern Washington is going with light availability on reds and yellows. Mount Vernon, Washington with good availability; product quality is stellar. North Dakota and Wisconsin with good supplies of red, yellow and white potatoes.

### **SQUASH**

**Eastern Squash:** Market has strengthened a bit, and volume remains good on zucchini, yellow straight neck and yellow crookneck squash. Quality and supply has remained consistent, and should remain so for the coming weeks.

### **STONE FRUIT**

Red Plums are finishing their supplies and Peaches/Nectarines are all but finished for the season. Black Angeleno Plums continue and there is still a good size range available along with excellent quality!

### **TOMATOES**

**Eastern:** There is cooler weather in the northern areas and this is bringing their season to an end, probably sometime next week. We are seeing smaller sizes out of the north east due to the cooler temps. Quincy FL has started harvesting in a light way. There has been rain down there but not nearly as extensive and damaging as the northern areas. The market is up a bit as we get into this transitional period.

### **WATERMELONS**

Regional Watermelons are available, but only in very light supply out of Texas and Oklahoma. Supplies are also still available in light volume out of Northern California, but supplies are dropping off quickly with colder weather in place. What is left for California volume will drop off again over the next 7 days. Mexico could have a few light supplies of seedless next week, but supplies will be very limited! Markets are slightly stronger to start this week and demand continues strong