



The Latest News

Get Your Ugly Artichokes

February 24, 2006

You may notice that artichokes take on a different appearance this time of year; an uglier appearance. These ugly artichokes, known as “winter kissed” artichokes have more bulk in their leaves, are heavier and are burned on the tips, similar to the effects of chapped lips from the colder night temperatures. Don’t let these aesthetically unattractive artichokes fool you. To the Italian, Castroville growers there couldn’t be more beautiful attributes. Due to the artichokes bulking up to protect the artichoke hearts from the cold winter temperatures, there is more “meat” in the leaves and the flavor is extraordinary. During the six-week period in between early March through mid-April, this delicacy is in its peak. In fact, 40-50% of the annual artichokes are harvested within this period. This is a great time to stock up, the flavor is at its best and the prices will be great!

