

Mineral of the Month Club



Platinum Letter June 2014 Featured Mineral/oid- Pink Opal

Hello Mineral of the Month Club Member :

This month we are excited about the featured mineral, a rare, pink variety of common opal from Peru. This particular color of opal is found only in Peru and in very small quantities in Mexico. Its rarity is due to the very unusual cause of its pink color—the presence of quinones, reddish-colored, hydrocarbon compounds derived from organic plant material that attach to silicate molecules. Pink common opal was first reported in Peru in the 1970s and has been mined commercially in small amounts only since the early 1980s. Pink opal is associated with chalcedony and occurs in veins up to two inches thick within a dioritic host rock. After mining, pink opal is trimmed for specimen use or cut and polished into gems.

As our write-up explains, pink opal is not a mineral, but a mineraloid, which is a natural, mineral-like material that, for reasons such as origin, lack of crystal structure, or indeterminate chemical composition, fails to meet the criteria of a mineral. Pink opal does not form crystals, but occurs only in amorphous, massive forms. Its soft translucency and distinctive color set it apart from every other form of common opal.

All of our specimens have the basic pink color and soft translucency that is characteristic of Peruvian pink opal. This base color varies somewhat in intensity and continuity among different specimens. In some specimens, the mineral palygorskite, as explained in our write-up, creates white streaks within the pink base color that imparts a somewhat mottled appearance. Choosing between the solid color and the streaked color is a matter of personal taste.

Just email or call Christine, who will personally pick a specimen that meets the color, size, and overall visual appeal that you desire.

As always we thank you for being a part of the Mineral of the Month Community,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

Featured Mineral

Pink Opal

Group 1



Specimen Sizes: 2.5" x 4" to 2.5" x 5.5"

Price range: \$45.00-\$75.00

This group has the soft pink color and translucency that is characteristic of Peruvian pink opal.

Featured Mineral

Pink Opal

Group 2



Specimen Sizes: 2.5" x 4" to 4" x 4" Price range: \$65.00-\$95.00

Thickness ranges from .25" to 1.5"

This group is deeper rosy pink in color

Further Information

Coming in July



Rainbow Fluorite Slab- China

For our July Mineral of the Month, Platinum Level members will receive specially selected specimens of the “rainbow” variety of fluorite from China. This is a very unusual, multicolored fluorite with a honey-like base color and distinct, individual bands that range in color from purple, violet, and blue to green, yellow, and pink. These specimens have been slabbed and polished to fully display their multicolored banding patterns.

Discounts available: If you order 4 or more minerals from the offer sheet you will receive a 10% discount.

Ordering: To place an order you can call #800-941-5594 or email christlne@celestialearthminerals.com

Shipping: As always, shipping is free in the United States.

Specimen size: All our specimens are approximate in size.

Method of payment: We accept, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, PayPal and checks.

Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.

