

Mineral of the Month Club



Platinum Letter August 2013 Featured Mineral- Rhodochrosite

Dear Platinum-Level Members,

Our August Mineral of the Month is rhodochrosite, a manganese carbonate that is widely considered to be among the most collectible of all mineral species. Our specimens are from the Wudong (Wuton) Mine at Liubao, Cangwe County, Wuzhou Prefecture, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. This locality is in southwestern China somewhat distant from most Chinese mineral sources. In recent years, the Chinese government has moved to modernize its mineral-resource-development assets by closing hundreds of small, older mines and replacing them with fewer, but much larger, highly mechanized and high-volume operations. China's older mines generally worked high-grade ores that yielded fine specimens of a variety of mineral species. The modern mines now being opened exploit lower-grade ores and are not expected to provide as many collectible mineral specimens. The Wudong Mine, the source of our rhodochrosite specimens, is one of the many smaller Chinese mines that have now closed. That means that your rhodochrosite specimen is from a mine that will never produce again.

We have selected for our Platinum Level members a limited number of exceptional rhodochrosite specimens from the Wudong Mine. We have sorted these into two groups based on color intensity, amount of matrix material, specimen size, and overall visual appeal.

Standing order option: Some of you already use this option for the featured mineral and we would like to ensure that all platinum members are aware of this option. You can set up an *automatic, "standing-order" each month* for the featured mineral. Just let Christine know the size and quality of a particular specimen grade that fits with your collection, and we will set up an automatic, monthly, standing-order to be shipped to you.

Thank you from The Mineral of the Month Club Staff

Featured Mineral- Rhodochrosite



Group 1

These specimens, the smaller of our special selections, have a very good pink color; bright, lustrous cleavage surfaces; and a nice showing of white matrix material containing minor amounts of golden pyrite and purple fluorite which sets off the pink color of the rhodochrosite.

Some collectors prefer rhodochrosite specimens with a balanced showing of matrix that contrasts with the pink of the rhodochrosite.

There are several specimens that either do not have matrix or have minimal matrix. Please specify your preferences when placing your order.

Specimen size: 1" x 3.5" to 2" x 3"

Price range: \$40.00- \$95.00

Featured Mineral- Rhodochrosite



Group2

These are the larger of our special rhodochrosite selections with the same rose-red color. With this rich, red color, these rhodochrosite specimens make attention-getting display pieces.

There are several specimens that either do not have matrix or have minimal matrix. Please specify your preferences when placing your order.

Specimen size: 1" x 2.5" to 2" x 3"

Price range: \$40.00- \$95.00

There are only a few of the **larger sized** , cabinet display pieces, if you want one please let us know as soon as possible. We can send a photo of the specimen if you would like.

Specimen size: 3" x 5", 4" x 5" and 4" x 5"

Price range: \$125.00-\$200.00

Featured Mineral- Rhodochrosite

If you would like to add any of these rhodochrosite specimens to your collection, contact us for further information.

We also have display stands available for your specimens.

Our Mineral of the Month for September will be the rare, sand-rose sub-variety of the selenite variety of the common mineral gypsum. Gypsum sand roses are found only in arid environments, and the best specimens come from true desert regions. Ours come from the greatest desert of all—the Sahara. Gypsum sand roses consist of bladed selenite crystals that are heavily included with particles of quartz sand. The sand lends its distinctive color to the sand roses and, by separating cleavage planes during crystal growth, creates their intricate, “rose-petal” shape. Sand roses make fine display pieces, and we have set aside the most visually impressive specimens for our Platinum Level members.

As always, thank you for your interest.

Coming in September



Sandrose -Morocco
September's featured mineral

Further Information

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@celestiaearthminerals.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 and checks.

Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.

