

Mineral of the Month Club



Platinum Letter October 2013 Featured Mineral- Realgar-Orpiment

Dear Platinum-Level Members,

For October we have featured composite specimens of realgar and orpiment that are unusual in both chemistry and color. Both minerals are closely related arsenic sulfides. Our specimens consist of deep-red to orange-red realgar crystals on a matrix of golden-yellow orpiment. They were collected at the Quiruvilca Mine, an underground producer of copper, lead, and zinc, along with small amounts of gold and silver. Quiruvilca, one of the world's highest active mines, has yielded fine specimens of realgar, orpiment, enargite, pyrite, hutchinsonite, and other minerals. Since international specimen markets began to boom in the 1960s, Quiruvilca miners have collected and sold specimens as a source of secondary income. Unlike many mines, Quiruvilca does not have an organized, specimen-collection system. Miners are permitted to collect specimens as long as ore production is not compromised. Many miners therefore collect before and after their shifts, or during their meal and rest breaks. Collection and sale of mineral specimens is an important part of the Quiruvilca economy. Many Quiruvilca miners rely on the sale of specimens to supplement their mine wages to better support their families.

We would like to offer two “special-handling” reminders about our realgar-orpiment specimens. Because of their arsenic content, realgar and orpiment are toxic. This does not constitute a hazard in normal viewing and display. Nevertheless, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after handling the specimen. Also, because realgar is light-sensitive, when you have finished studying or displaying your specimen, be sure to store it in a lidded box.

Featured Mineral Realgar-Orpiment



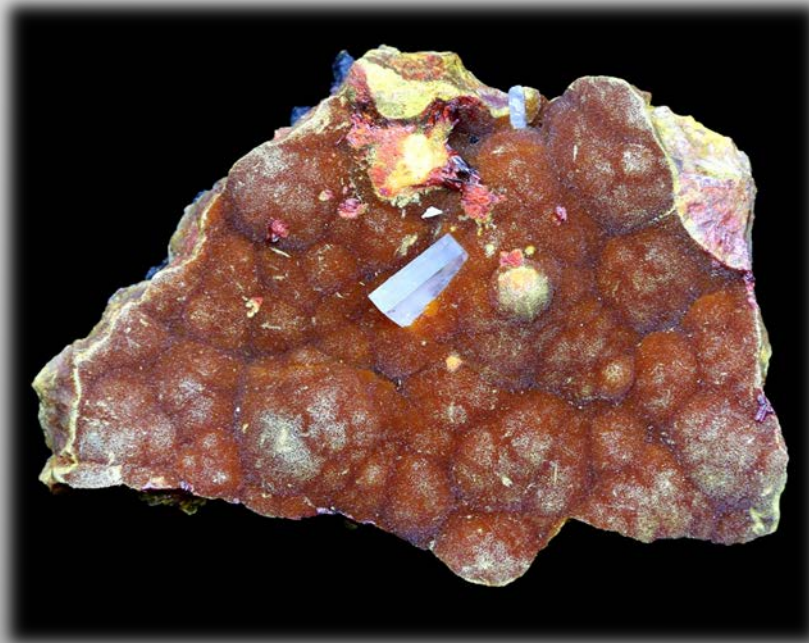
Group 1

This group includes some of the smaller of our special realgar-orpiment specimens. They consist predominantly of orpiment, have a yellow-brown color, and show accessory barite crystals.

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

Price range: \$15.00-35.00

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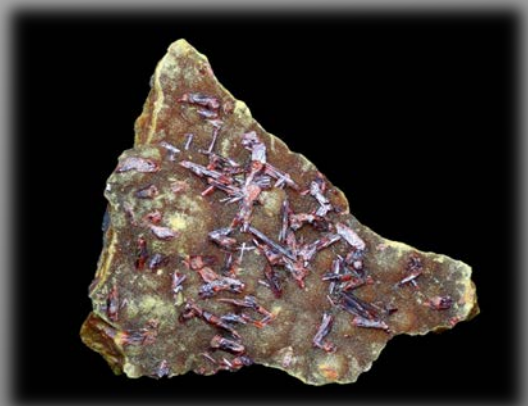
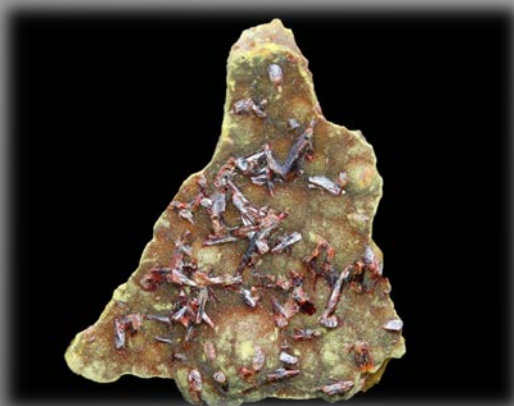


Group2

These specimens are comparable in size to the larger of group 1. Some specimens have a few pieces of fluorite crystals. Often containing more realgar, they have a richer, reddish color. As you will see from the photos above and below they can have distinctly different structures. Please let us know your preferences when placing your order.

Specimen size: 2" x 2" to 3" x 4"

Price range: \$25.00-\$55.00



Featured Mineral Realgar-Orpiment



Group 3

Some of the larger specimens are in this group. They contain the greatest amount of realgar and have a bright orange color. They also have the best development of red realgar, yellow-orange orpiment, and colorless barite crystals. Visually stunning.

Specimen size: 1.5" x 2" to 3" x 5" Price range: \$40.00-\$75.00

Specimen size: 3" x 4" to 4" x 6" Price range: \$75.00-\$180.00

Featured Mineral Realgar-Orpiment



Specimen sizes: 3" x 5.5" to 6" x 6"



Price Range: \$225.00 - \$325.00

We also have available a very limited number of larger cabinet-sized, realgar-orpiment specimens that make very impressive display pieces. These extraordinary specimens are as large as six inches in size with prominent, red realgar crystals amid well-developed, orange orpiment and colorless barite crystals.

As always, thank you for your interest.

Coming in November



Austinite
Mexico

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.

