

Mineral of the Month Club



Platinum Letter November 2013 Featured Mineral- Austinite

Dear Platinum-Level Members,

For our November Mineral of the Month, we are featuring austinite, a rare, basic calcium zinc arsenate, from the Ojuela Mine at Mapimí, Durango, Mexico, a locality that many collectors consider to be the Western Hemisphere's greatest source of mineral specimens. Ojuela is certainly the world's greatest source of rare arsenate minerals. Austinite crystallizes in the orthorhombic system, usually as small, bladed or acicular crystals with a diagnostic green color. The Ojuela Mine is remarkable in several respects. Its history of ore or specimen production has extended for 415 continuous years. Ojuela's cumulative production of lead, zinc, silver, gold, and copper is valued in the billions of dollars. Yet even after centuries of mining, the Ojuela deposit is far from exhausted and modern geophysical exploration efforts may lead to its reopening.

From the standpoint of mineral specimens, the Ojuela deposit has an unusually large and deep, oxidized zone. Arsenic-rich mineralization together with an unusually large oxidized zone accounts for the occurrence of many colorful and rare arsenate minerals, including austinite. In our specimens, austinite rests atop a colorful matrix of orange-brown limonite. Limonite, an indeterminate mixture of iron oxides and hydroxides, is abundant throughout the Ojuela oxidized zones. It has a rich, orange-brown color and is a common matrix material in many Ojuela specimens. In our austinite specimens, the orange-brown limonite provides an attractive color contrast with the green austinite.

We have selected a limited number of exceptional specimens of austinite for our Platinum Level members and have sorted these specimens into three groups based upon size, color, crystal development, and overall visual appeal.

Featured Mineral

Austinite



Group 1

This group includes the smaller of our special austinite offerings. Specimens consist of a thick, drusy coating of green austinite crystals on a richly colored, orange-brown limonite matrix.

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

Price range: \$45.00-\$75.00



Featured Mineral

Austinite



Group2

These larger specimens have better developed crystals and have a brighter green color. The austinite is partially covered with a drusy coating of glittering, colorless, transparent calcite crystals.

Specimen size: 3" x 3" to 4" x 5"

Price range: \$145.00- \$230.00

Featured Mineral

Austinite



Group 3

The largest of our special austinite offerings, these specimens measure as large as 5x6 inches. These show the best austinite crystal development and cover the limonite matrix almost completely with a thick drusy coating. With the greatest range of green colors and a bright coating of transparent, colorless, drusy calcite crystals, these make outstanding display pieces.

Specimen size: 4" x 4.5" to 5.5" x 6"

Price range: \$200.00 to \$310.00

Further Information

Coming in December



**Apophyllite & Stilbite
India**

Our December Mineral of the Month will be apophyllite-(KF) from the basalt quarries of the Deccan Traps near Mumbai in the Mumbai District in Maharashtra state, India. For our Platinum Level members, we have set aside the most interesting and visually attractive of these apophyllite-(KF) specimens. These specimens exhibit the best in crystal development, transparency, luster, and mirror-like interior cleavage-surface reflections.

Because Platinum Level specimens vary by price, quality, size, and overall visual appearance, and we have graded these specimens accordingly. Please remember that if the size and quality of a particular group is appropriate for your personal collection, we would be pleased to set up an automatic, monthly, standing-order arrangement. Call us for full 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 christine@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 and checks.

Please make checks payable to Celestial Earth Stones.

