

Mineral of the Month Club



Offering Sheet February 2016

For February, our four special offers include specimens from Morocco, Mexico, Bolivia, and the United States (Arizona). In color, these specimens range from opaque black and a delicate lilac to a multicolored red-greenish-white-black. The crystal forms include hexagonal, isometric, massive, and amorphous, the latter referring to the mineraloid obsidian, which is a mineral-like form of silica.

Lora, our Mineral of the Month Club assistant manager selected her favorite from this month's offers. "**Lora's Pick**" is the magnetite from Cerro Huanaquino, Bolivia. "I like the nicely developed, black magnetite crystals with their lustrous triangular faces," she says. "I'm also fascinated by the natural magnetism of the magnetite, which is detectable simply by placing a steel paper clip on the specimen."

Take a gander of what we have and let Christine know what you will be adding to your collection.

Warmest Regards,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora



Magnetite- "Lora's Pick"

Collected at Cerro Huanaquino, Bolivia, these specimens consist of black, opaque crystals of magnetite, a naturally magnetic iron oxide, on a matrix of light-gray rhyolite. These well-developed, octahedral crystals are terminated and striated, and have triangular faces. Each crystal is black in color and opaque, and has the bright, metallic luster that is typical of magnetite.

Specimen size: 1.75" x 4.25" to 2.0" x 5.75"

Price range: \$75.00- \$125.00



Quartz var. Amethyst

Amethyst is the purple variety of crystalline quartz, or silicon dioxide, which takes its color from traces of iron and manganese. These specimens, collected at Midelt, Morocco, consist of thick, dense coatings of amethyst on the altered rock of a cavity wall. Each of the thousands of tiny amethyst crystals is perfectly terminated and has a glassy luster and a delicate lilac color.

Specimen sizes: 1.5" x 1.5" to 5.0" x 6.0"

Price: \$15.00-\$75.00

I purchased these at the 22nd Street Tent show in Tucson last year. While amethyst can be considered "common" what I especially liked about these was that many of the specimens had druzy crystals that formed over small stalactites, some grew in "plates", and the colors range from a delicate lilac to pale lavender.



Specimen size: 1.5" x 2.5" to 2.0" x 4.0"

Price: \$20.00 to \$95.00

Calcite var. Tricolor, Massive

These specimens of massive, translucent calcite, or calcium carbonate, are from Durango, Mexico. Each piece is multicolored, with red, greenish, white, and blackish hues. These specimens have been briefly immersed in acid to dissolve a thin surface layer of the calcite and create a smooth, glassy luster that greatly improves translucency, intensifies internal colors, and reveals color patterns.

These were another Tucson purchase. I got them at a tent show in the pouring rain and was determined to get some interesting calcite to go along with our featured mineral, another "massive" form of calcite.



Obsidian var. Apache Tears

Apache tears are the remnants of obsidian, a silica-rich mineraloid which has not yet altered into perlite. Collected at the classic Apache Tear locality at Picketpost Mountain near Superior, Arizona, these specimens consist of rounded, opaque, black nodules of obsidian with a glassy luster in a matrix of gray perlite.

Specimen size: 1.0" x 5.75" x 3.5" x 4.5"

Price range: \$25.00 to \$65.00

Still Available From Last Month:



Specimen size: 1.0" x 2.0" to 3.5" x 4.0"
Price: \$65.00-\$225.00

Quartz with Hematite

Christine and Lora's Pick of the Month

Collected at the Jinlong Mine in Guangdong Province, China, these are composite specimens of quartz, or silicon dioxide, and hematite, or iron oxide. Long, well-formed quartz prisms are coated with particulate, red hematite and project outward from a matrix of stacked, micaceous plates of silvery-black hematite.

What is truly interesting is that it is a composite specimen consisting of long quartz prisms with two distinctly different forms of hematite.

These were another Tucson 2015 purchase.



Specimen size: 1.0" x 1.5" x 2.5"
x 3.0"
Price range: \$25.00- \$55.00

Tremolite var. Chrome

Traces of chromium color these specimens of tremolite, or basic calcium magnesium silicate, a bright green. Collected from the metamorphic formations at the Gouverneur Talc Company quarry at Balmat, New York, these specimens consist of a layer of small, but well developed, compacted, transparent-to-translucent, lime-green tremolite crystals atop a layer of white tremolite.



Specimen size: 2" x 3" x 1" to 5" x 6" x 2"
Price range: \$95.00 - \$325.00

Galena & Calcite, or Pyrite & Calcite, or Sphalerite & Calcite

These composite specimens of galena, calcite, pyrite, and sphalerite are from Madan, Bulgaria.

The galena, or lead sulfide, appears as modified cubes with lustrous, silvery-gray faces; the sphalerite, or zinc sulfide, as smaller, black tetrahedrons; and the pyrite as small, glittering, brassy bits.

These metal sulfides are set amid a cluster of terminated, transparent calcite crystals and make complex, eye-catching display pieces.

Just let us know which minerals catch your eye and we will find the perfect match.

Further Information

We love to hear from our members, so please call or email anytime!

Discounts available: If you order 4 or more minerals from the Featured Mineral letter and/or the offering sheet you will receive a 10% discount on your mineral purchase.

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.

Wish lists... If you are looking for something specific, please let us know and we will do our best to find it for you!

