

Mineral of the Month Club



Offering Sheet March 2016

Our four special offers for March include specimens from Morocco, Mexico, China, and the United States (New York). These specimens range in color from a rich, reddish-orange to varying shades of lilac and purple. Their forms include prismatic, tabular, and amorphous, the latter referring to the mineraloid opal, a hydrated form of silica. Particularly interesting are the complex clusters of prismatic quartz crystals and the stacked arrangement of tabular calcite crystals.

“Christine’s Pick” this month is the hexagonite variety of tremolite from New York. Each year I see Mike from Geologic Desires at The West Springfield Massachusetts Gem & Mineral Show and I like to pick up a few New York State minerals that he has mined. I like the long, monoclinic crystals with their glassy luster and delicate striations of wine-like and purple colors that are often seen in only a few tourmalines, but is rarely seen in other minerals.”

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

Warmest Regards,

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora



Hexagonite

Tremolite var. "Hexagonite"

The "hexagonite" or manganooan variety of tremolite, or basic calcium magnesium silicate, occurs almost exclusively in the extensive contact-metamorphic environments at Talcville in St. Lawrence County in western New York. These specimens consist of long, translucent, monoclinic crystals with a bright luster and a distinctive, lilac-to-purplish color.

Specimen size: .75" x 1" to 1.75" x 3.0"

Price range: \$30.00- \$55.00



Calcite with Pyrite

Collected at the Daye Iron Mine in Hubei Province, China, these crystals of calcite, or calcium carbonate, have a very unusual crystal form—stacks of terminated, tabular, hexagonal crystals that appear as superposed umbrellas. These colorless, translucent crystals are dusted with microcrystals of gray pyrite, or iron disulfide, and are among the most eye-catching of all calcite habits.

Specimen sizes: 1.5" x 1.5" to 2.5" x 2.75"

Price: \$45.00 - \$110.00





Specimen size: 2.0" x 2.75" to 2.5" x 4.5"
Price: \$40.00 - \$125.00

Red Quartz

These specimens of quartz, or silicon dioxide, are from the Meknès-Tafilalet Region of Morocco and consist of complex clusters of intergrown, hexagonal prisms on a base of drusy crystals. The well-developed, terminated crystals have an intense, reddish-orange color that is due to both inclusions and coatings of finely divided particles of hematite, or iron oxide.

Starting in the summer of 2015 at the West Springfield Massachusetts Show and continuing at the 2016 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show these red quartz pieces have been popping up all over the place and seem to be very popular.



Specimen size: 1.0" x 1.5" x .5 to 2.0" x 2.0" x .5"
Price range: \$40.00 - \$80.00

Purple Opal

Opal var. Common, sub var. Purple

These specimens are from a recently discovered source in the Sonoran Desert region of northern Mexico. They are of the common or non-opalescent variety of opal, a mineraloid consisting of hydrated silica. The distinctive, purple coloration of this gemstone is caused by included microcrystals of fluorite. These specimens have been slabbed and polished to display their wide range of purple colors.

Still Available From Last Month:



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

Price: \$75.00- \$125.00

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.

There are only a few pieces left of this beauty with magnetic charm. (pun intended)



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

Price range: \$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.



Specimen size: 1.0" x 5.75" x 3.75" to 4.5" x 3.5" x 3.50"

Price range: \$45.00 - \$75.00

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.

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@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, 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!

