

# Mineral of the Month Club



**May 2016**

## **Featured Mineral Tessin Quartz**

Our Mineral of the Month for May is the Tessin variety of quartz. This rare variety of quartz is named for a locality in Tessin (Ticino), Switzerland, where it was first described. Unlike other forms of quartz which have parallel prismatic faces, those of Tessin quartz taper or converge from the base of the crystal toward the termination. Tessin quartz also lacks the simple, transverse, linear striations that are typical of most forms of quartz and instead exhibits blocky, mosaic-type, striation patterns on the prism faces. Tessin quartz grows very slowly in high temperatures and develops from the crystallization of silica-rich solutions that are rich in dissolved carbon dioxide. Mineralogists believe that the presence of dissolved carbon dioxide disrupts the growth of the normal quartz crystal lattice to produce the Tessin habit.

All our groups of Tessin Quartz consist of complex clusters of well-developed, terminated, hexagonal prisms. Each group varies in overall specimen size, development and size of individual crystals, degree of translucency, and color. The characteristics of the Tessin variety of quartz are apparent in all specimens, but the larger individual crystals best display the subtle tapering of the prismatic faces and the mosaic-striation patterns.

To select your Platinum Level specimen, please call or email Christine, our Mineral of the Month Club manager, Monday through Friday to discuss the specimen that best suits your preferences.

As always, thanks to all our members for making the Mineral of the Month Club what it is today!

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

# Featured Mineral

## Tessin Quartz

### Group 1



Size Range: 1" x 2" to 3" x 4"  
Price Range: \$25.00- \$45.00

The specimens in this group consist of clusters of translucent crystals with milky-to-gray colors. Some crystals exhibit scattered, small, cubic crystals of pyrite as secondary growths atop the primary crystals of Tessin quartz.

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## Tessin Quartz

### Group 2



Size Ranges: 1.5" x 3.0" to 2.5" x 4.0"  
Prices: \$40.00 - \$95.00

These specimens are larger than those of Group 1 in both size of the overall specimens and individual crystals. Clusters consist of well-defined individual crystals with good translucency and a milky-white color; some specimens exhibit minor associations with secondary growths of opaque, white calcite.

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## Tessin Quartz

### Group 3



Size Ranges: 3.0" x 4.0" – 4.0" x 5.0"  
Prices: \$125.00 - \$225.00

The specimens in this group are largest in overall and individual-crystal size. These crystals, which have excellent translucency and a bright, milky-white color, are very well developed and best display the Tessin characteristics of tapered prisms and mosaic-type striations. These specimens also have the greatest visual appeal and make fine display pieces.

# Further Information

## Coming in June



Apatite - Mexico

**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 [christine@celestialearthminerals.com](mailto:christine@celestialearthminerals.com)

**Shipping:** As always, shipping is free on all orders over \$100.00 shipping 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.***

