

# Mineral of the Month Club



**July 2016**

## **Featured Mineral Almandine Garnet**

Our Mineral of the Month for July is the garnet-group mineral almandine from Paraíba, Brazil. Almandine is an iron aluminum silicate with a dark-reddish color that occurs in dodecahedral, trapezohedral, and combined dodecahedral-trapezohedral habits. The deep, reddish color and translucency of our specimens are caused by a combination of the essential element iron, traces of manganese and other elements, and defects in the crystal lattice. The crystal faces have a bright, glassy luster. These specimens are unusual in that the almandine crystals occur within nodules of massive quartz matrix. In some specimens, this quartz is white and essentially pure; in others, it contains silvery flakes of the mica-group mineral muscovite and has a reddish color caused by particulate hematite and tiny crystals of almandine. These specimens formed when schist was undergoing metamorphism. While the schist was still in a plastic state, hydrothermal fluids rich in silica, iron, and aluminum accumulated in pockets. With gradual cooling of the fluids in these pockets, almandine crystallized first as clusters of dodecahedral and trapezohedral crystals. With further cooling, massive quartz then crystallized to create nodules around the almandine.

We have selected the largest, best-developed, and most visually attractive almandine specimens for our Platinum Level members. The overall size of the quartz nodules ranges up to four inches. The individual almandine crystals measure more than one inch in size; all have very well-developed, lustrous faces, and a deep-red color. Much of the visual appeal of these specimens lies in the contrast of colors and crystal forms in the almandine and its quartz-nodule matrix. All of our specially selected almandine-quartz specimens make excellent display pieces.

To select your Platinum Level specimen of almandine from Paraíba, Brazil, please contact Mineral of the Month Club manager Christine during regular business hours to discuss the features and appearance of individual specimens. We look forward to providing you with the Platinum Level almandine specimen that best fits your collection.

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

## Almandine Garnet

### Group 1



**Size :** 1.0" x 2.0" to 2.0" x 4.0"

**Price range:** \$35.00 - \$50.00

Garnet crystals range in size from .25" to .5"

# Featured Mineral

## Almandine Garnet

### Group 2



**Size :** 2" x 2" to 2.5" x 4.0"  
**Price range:** \$65.00- \$125.00

Garnet crystals range in size from .75" x 1.0"

# Further Information

## Coming in August



Aquamarine with Schorl- Erongo Mountains, Namibia

**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.***

