

Mineral of the Month Club



January 2016

Featured Mineral Halite

This month we have halite from sunny Trona California for you. It is a sodium chloride that forms as an evaporite-mineral deposit in the huge Searles Lake. Halite is widely collected for its crystal structure and range of colors.

Along with fluorite and pyrite, halite is one of the relatively few minerals that provide classic examples of perfect, cubic-crystal form. Our specimens vary in color from light gray, light pink to a rosy pink. The pink color has an organic origin, which is very unusual in minerals. It is caused by a reddish pigment produced by the huge numbers of halobacteria (salt-loving bacteria) that thrive in the Searles Lake brine. This is a carotenoid pigment similar to those found in tomatoes, red peppers, shrimp, and many reddish flowers and autumn leaves. This reddish pigment was present in the Searles Lake brine and was "captured" when the halite crystallized. The whitish to gray halite specimens crystallized when the halobacteria concentrations in the lake brine were low.

Below are a few photos I snagged from the internet. They are from the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society's post on a field trip they took to collect halite.



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Our Platinum Level halite specimens consist of tight clusters of fully developed, sharp-edged, cubes on a matrix of massive halite. Because these specimens include perfect cubic crystals, as well as some that are elongated, skeletal or hoppered, they are a fine opportunity for the side-by-side study of variations of the cubic habit.

To select your Platinum Level halite specimen, please call or email Christine, our Mineral of the Month Club manager, during regular business hours to discuss overall specimen size and the colors of both the halite crystals and the massive halite matrix. We are confident that we can provide you with the Platinum Level halite specimen that best suits your needs.

Group 1



Specimen Size: 2.5" x 3" x 3" to 4" x 4.5" x 1" Prices: \$25.00 to \$60.00

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Halite

Group 2



Specimen size: 2" x 4" x 2" to 5" x 6" x .5"

Price range: \$55.00 to \$95.00

Group 2 offers more clusters of well formed crystals than group 1.

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Halite

Group 3



Specimen size: 4" x 6" x 2" to 4" x 8" x 3"

Price ranges: \$95.00- \$125.00

Group 3 offers larger display cabinet pieces with well formed crystals.

Further Information

Coming in February



February's mineral is the Orange Calcite from Northern Durango (Ojuela), 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 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.

