

# Mineral of the Month Club



**October 2016**

## Featured Mineral

Our October Mineral of the Month is agate, a form of microcrystalline quartz with a distinctive appearance characterized by translucency and multicolored patterns of bands, layers, and inclusions. Agate is an extremely popular gemstone because of its soft translucency, attractive and intricate banding patterns, and wide range of colors. Agate is usually multicolored, with several different colors appearing in each specimen.

Our specimens of cut-and-polished agate nodules, or geodes, are from Soledade in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where agate has been collected for nearly two centuries. Soledade has dozens of cutting-and-polishing factories that export an estimated 3,000 tons of agate slabs, specimens, gems, and decorative items each year. Soledade, which is fittingly known as *Cidade do Pedras Preciosas* or “City of Precious Stones,” is located within a huge formation of volcanic rock that covers most of the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, along with adjacent areas of Uruguay and Argentina. When this lava solidified some 135 million years ago, gas bubbles formed cavities that later filled with silica-rich solutions and solidified into agate nodules.

All of the multicolored, cut-and-polished specimens exhibit white, blue, gray, and black colors, along with various plume, feather, and fortification patterns. These specimens are geodic and have hollow interiors lined with terminated macrocrystals of colorless, transparent quartz and occasional needle-like prisms of black goethite. The exterior of these specimens consists of a distinctive, light-brownish, celadonite crust and a “ropy” or “worm-like” texture that is a cast of the original cavity wall. Our Platinum Level agate nodules range in size from three to six inches, with the larger sizes best showing off colors, patterns, and interior crystallization. They make excellent study specimens and eye-catching display pieces.

To select your Platinum Level, cut-and-polished agate nodule, please contact our Mineral of the Month Club manager Christine during regular business hours. Christine will be happy to describe size, colors, patterns, and other features to enable you to select the specimen that best suits your needs.

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

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## Agate Geode



Size: 2.0" x 2.0" to 2.0" x 3" Price : \$25.00 - \$30.00

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These specimens can be found in the following sizes and prices ranges:

Size: 3.0" x 5.0" to 5.0" x 7.0"

Price: \$50.00 - \$125.00

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# Further Information

## Coming in November



Pyrite Cluster- Peru

**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.***

