

Mineral of the Month Club



November 2015

Featured Mineral Fluorite with Calcite

Our Mineral of the Month is a *composite* specimen of fluorite with calcite from the Xianghualing Mine in Hunan Province, China. The Xianghualing multimetal deposit has been mined off and on for more than 1,000 years. This deposit has always been an important source of tin, but now it also yields significant quantities of lead, zinc, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, beryllium, and rare-earth metals. Since the 1990s, the Xianghualing Mine has been an important source of fluorite specimens, which occur in *vugs* within an altered-limestone host rock.



A *vug*, also spelled *vugh* is usually a small to medium sized cavity inside a rock where other secondary minerals like quartz or calcite will form and in our case, fluorite crystals have formed. Vugs can range in size from small cavities only inches wide to large, “walk-in” openings. In the photos above you can see two examples of a vugs, one in which only the man’s hand fits in and the other where his entire body fits.

A *composite* specimen is when two or more mineral species are combined in a single specimen. They are especially interesting because they offer a side-by-side comparison of different crystal structures, colors, and luster. The fluorite is pale-green, transparent octahedrons with lightly frosted faces and the calcite is colorless to light gray, transparent, terminated, scalenohedral crystals with sharp edges, and lustrous faces that are reminiscent of flower petals.

We hope that you love these specimens as much as we do.

Dimitri, Mary, Christine, and Lora

Featured Mineral Fluorite with Calcite

Group 1



Specimen size: 1.5" x 2.5" to 2" x 3" **Price range:** \$40.00- \$55.00

This group consists primarily of the light green fluorite octahedrons. There are several pieces that are mixed with the secondary colorless to dark gray calcite crystals.

Featured Mineral

Fluorite with Calcite

Group 2



Specimen size: 2" x 3.5" to 3.5" x 3.5" **Price range:** \$65.00 to \$100.00

The specimens in this group have a more clearly defined crystal structure which provides for an excellent opportunity to compare the color and crystal structure of the two mineral species.

Featured Mineral Fluorite with Calcite

Group 3



Specimen sizes: 1.5" x 4" to 3" x 5" x 3.5" **Price range:** \$125.00-\$200.00

The specimens in this group are a superb example of “composite” specimens consisting of a fairly equal amounts of fluorite and calcite that highlight the best features of both mineral species. The pale green fluorite contrasts nicely with the secondary colorless to dark gray calcite crystals. They make for beautiful display pieces.

Further Information

Coming in December



December's featured mineral will be hyalite, a "common" form of opal on matrix that fluoresces neon green. They are from a newly discovered locality in Zacatecas, 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@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.

