

Mineral of the Month Club



November 2016

Featured Mineral

Our November Mineral of the Month is pyrite, or iron disulfide, from Peru's Huanzala Mine. Our specimens consist of clusters of lustrous, striated pyritohedral crystals. The Huanzala Mine is a classic pyrite locality that has yielded more mineral specimens on a tonnage basis than any other mine in the world. As Peru's first great source of pyrite, Huanzala helped to develop that nation's booming mineral-specimen industry. Huanzala pyrite exhibits three of the four major habits of pyrite—cubic, octahedral, and dodecahedral (pentagonal-pyritohedral) and has a mirror-bright-to-satiny luster.

We have acquired *only a handful of an excellent* representation of Huanzala pyrite that consist of clusters of beautifully developed crystals with sharp edges and perfect, pentagonal-pyritohedral form. So if you think that one of these is for you, do not hesitate and order right away.

Their irregular, pentagonal faces have a pale, brassy-gold color and a brilliant, metallic luster. Most crystal faces are striated; a few exhibit a glassy, mirror-like smoothness. These pyritohedral crystals rest atop a matrix of granular pyrite with dark masses of minor sphalerite, or zinc sulfide, and occasional minor white calcite, or calcium carbonate. With their bright luster and unusual degree of crystal development, our Platinum Level specimens make excellent study specimens and eye-catching display pieces.

Since the 1968 opening of the Huanzala Mine, the abundance of fine mineral specimens has resulted in managerial and production problems. Seeking a source of secondary income, Huanzala miners have traditionally devoted much of their work time to collecting specimens to sell to buyers from Peru's capital city of Lima who visit the mine regularly. Although specimen-collecting in the Huanzala Mine and the sale of specimens in the company town of Huanzala has long been officially banned, miners continue to provide a supply of specimens.

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

Pyrite

Group #1



Group 1 is slightly larger than the gold-level specimens with well defined cubic form.

Size: Approximately 1.5" x 1.5"

Price : \$20.00- \$25.00

Featured Mineral

Pyrite

Group # 2



Size: 3.0" x 4.0" to 3.0" x 5.0"

Price: \$95.00 - \$125.00

Further Information

Coming in December



Diopase - Namibia

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

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.

