

Mineral of the Month Club



December 2016

Featured Mineral

Our December Mineral of the Month is diopside, a hydrous copper silicate from the Kaokoveld Plateau of northwest Namibia. Although uncommon, diopside is widely collected for its distinctive, brilliant, emerald-green color. Our write-up explains how Russian miners who discovered diopside in the late 1700s assumed that it was actually gem-quality emerald.

Our specimens are from the Omaue Mine, located on the property of what is now a small guest lodge along a remote, unpaved road that serves as a regional highway in the Kaokoveld bush country. Although this deposit was explored for decades with tunnels and shallow open pits, it was too small to justify commercial mining. Nevertheless, it is known for its specimens of diopside and other copper minerals. Limited mining continues for specimens, which are sold to lodge guests and to dealers for export to international markets.

In our specimens, diopside crystals rest atop a matrix of massive, gray quartz. The diopside occurs as stubby, doubly terminated, hexagonal crystals with rhombohedral termination faces that appear square or rectangular and have a bright, glassy luster. These specimens exhibit the distinct, emerald-green color that is characteristic of diopside. We have divided our Platinum Level specimens into two groups based on the size of both the individual diopside crystals and the overall specimen.

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

Dioptase

Group #1



Group 1

With the largest individual-crystal and overall-specimen size, and the least amount of quartz matrix, these specimens are ideal for studying the color, transparency, luster, and structure of the doubly terminated, hexagonal diopside crystals with their lustrous, rhombohedral termination faces.

Size: 2.0" X 2.0" to 3.0" x 4.0"

Price: \$125.00 - \$375.00

Featured Mineral

Diopside

Group # 2



Group 2

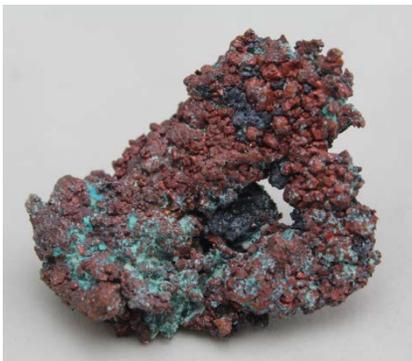
While somewhat smaller in both individual-crystal and overall-specimen size than the specimens of Group 1, these specimens fully display the distinct color and all other features of diopside crystals and make nice display pieces.

Size: 2.0" x 2.0" to 4.0" x 6.0"

Price: \$55.00 - \$225.00

Further Information

Coming in January



Copper with Cuprite - Nevada

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: Starting in January the monthly offerings will be available through the website and /or our Etsy Shop for your convenience.

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.

