

Here finally is the information on the wonderful red beryl on matrix from the Violet Claim, Wah Wah Mountains, Utah. Believe it or not, we actually featured Red Beryl as our Mineral of the Month back in March 1999! Of course, then we only had a couple of hundred members, and the mine was still open for collecting, so everything was different. I'm sure the specimens we sent to Deluxe members then have appreciated in value! So we'll have a write-up to go along with any specimens you order.

This locality was featured as one of the 50 best American localities of the past 50 years at the recent Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, and is also included in the *American Mineral Treasures* book, which contains more background information and photos of some truly glorious, breathtaking specimens. Around the time we featured red beryl in our Club, the mine was sold to a group of investors, who invested millions in hopes of introducing "Red Emerald" (as they called it) to the high-end jewelry market. Things didn't work out for them, and the mine is currently closed, with little chance of reopening--there just isn't enough high quality material to pay for the tremendous costs of acquiring and reopening the mine.

These specimens came from the mine geologist's collection, which tells something about their quality. This may be the best opportunity to add a reasonably priced specimen to your collection. Of course, the high quality, gemmy, translucent red beryl crystals, on or off matrix, are way out of the price range of most of us collectors. So although our specimens are by no means cheap, they may present the best opportunity to get a good specimen from a classic locality. Most of the specimens we have are opaque, with good, sharp, 6-sided hexagonal crystal form and flat terminations. Some have somewhat melted-appearing terminations. The crystals also have some small pits in them, as a result of the way they formed.

Since we only have a small amount, (16 pieces altogether), please don't be disappointed if the piece you want to choose has already been selected. For specimens over \$500, we can arrange for two payments if you wish, 1 now and one in 30 days from now--for the most expensive, we could divide in by 3. You may also return your specimen if it's not what you had in mind, but please send it within two weeks of receiving it, pack it as carefully as we do when sending it to you, and send it back fully insured in case anything happens to it.

Group 1 We have two thumbnail specimens mounted in 1.25" by 1.25" by 1.25" plastic boxes, and one slightly larger, too big to fit in a plastic box. Each has a .75" crystal on a small amount of matrix. The crystals are opaque with good red color, show the typical 6-sided hexagonal crystal form common to beryl, and have flat terminations. Each one is \$150.

Group 2 are matrix specimens with opaque red crystals of larger size, thicker than most we've seen from this locality. These also show the well-defined hexagonal crystal form with a flat termination, except where noted:

We have two specimens with a .75" long by more than .5" wide crystal on matrix about 1.5" by 1" matrix for \$225. These have rather round terminations.

We have 1 specimen with a red beryl crystal 7/8" long by over .5" wide, nicely centered on 2.25" by 2.25" matrix for \$250.

Group 3 are matrix specimens with thinner crystals, also opaque with good form, flat terminations, and small pits.

We have 1 specimen with a .5" long by .5" wide crystal sitting up on matrix about 2" by 1" for \$180.

We have 1 specimen with a 7/8" long by more than 3/8" across crystal on 3" by 2" matrix for \$330.

Group 4 are matrix specimens, the best of the lot. All these have some gemmy translucence to the crystals. We have included photos of these specimens to give you a better idea.

RB575 also has a fairly gemmy, somewhat translucent crystal that sits up about .25" above the matrix, and is a little more than .25" across. It sits up on a large matrix piece about 4" across by 3" high. This crystal also has some small bits of matrix attached to the back of it, and there is another crystal next to it that seems to be of similar size, but is almost completely covered by matrix, as seen in the photos.



Figure 2 Closeup of RB575, \$575.00



Figure 1. RB575 \$575.00

Let me know what you think, or if you have any questions or would like to order one. Thanks!

Richard