

## Rhodochrosite

A Mineralogical Icon



Hello Friends,

This month Mardani Fine Minerals is highlighting a mineralogical icon, rhodochrosite.

Rhodochrosite is among the most eye-catching and desirable species in the entire mineral kingdom, so much so that collectors consider it an essential "must-have" in any world-class collection. Although the name rhodochrosite comes from the ancient Greek words for "rose-colored," rhodochrosite specimens can vary anywhere from a soft pink to the most desirable "fire-engine red" color. Its hues are dependent on the concentration of manganese (Mn) that was present in its geological environment during formation. Different localities around the world produce specimens with both unique color tones and crystal shapes that immediately give indications to the mineral's place of origin. The characteristics that distinguish rhodochrosite specimens from one another are so well known amongst collectors that it is often possible to identify not only the locality but the specific pocket or find with only a quick glance.

There are currently three special rhodochrosite specimens on display in the gallery, each found in a different locality in the world. Please enjoy the wonderful variety of shapes and colors that this fascinating mineral offers, and as always, we welcome you to enjoy them in person this summer at the gallery.

Best,

*Daniel & Mausaa*

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**ID#: 07490, Rhodochrosite** | Uchucchacua Mine, Oyon Province, Lima Department, Peru  
H: 8.2 cm W: 9.7 cm D: 5.5 cm Wt: 486 g

Rhodochrosites from this locality almost always form in a scalenohedral crystal, as is exhibited in this specimen. Although most Peruvian examples are a lighter pink, the Uchucchacua Mine produces rhodochrosite that is a darker, richer pink to red color. This example has brilliantly colored crystals nicely isolated on a dark matrix. This piece was acquired from the prominent Italian collector Daniele Danielli in 2014.



**ID#: 08526, Rhodochrosite** | Manuelita Mine, Morococha, Yauli, Junin, Peru  
H: 7.5 cm W: 10.6 cm D: 5.5 cm Wt: 304 g

This piece has a beautiful composition of intergrown rhombohedral crystals. These well-formed crystals and the aesthetic arrangement gives the piece a unique sculptural appeal. This piece was previously in the collection of Francois Gaboury, an accomplished geologist currently working in South America.



**ID#: 01613, Rhodochrosite** | Sweet Home Mine, Alma District, Park Co., Colorado, USA  
H: 6 cm W: 10 cm D: 7 cm Wt: 426 g

The Sweet Home Mine is known for producing some of the most lustrous and colorful rhodochrosite specimens in the world and this piece is no exception. It has the signature "fire-engine red" coloration that sets this locality apart from all others. Adding to its appeal is a fine aesthetic with a larger central rhombohedral crystal surrounded by smaller ones, all finely crystalized and bursting with color. Sweet Home rhodochrosite specimens are unmistakable and carry noteworthy collectible value, especially because all significant rhodochrosite deposits were depleted by the mid-90s.

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