

# karats



## PINK COBALTO CALCITE

Pink cobalto calcite, also referred to as pink dolomite, was discovered in Congo (Zaire), Africa only a few years ago. It is increasingly scarce as a result of social strife within Congo's borders, and is no longer actively mined. Cobalto calcite is known for its cleavage and softness, and its hot pink color makes for a spectacular jewel.

Hardness: 3-4

Durability: tough

100% Natural (completely untreated)

Cleaning: Ultrasonic and Steam cleaning OK

The cobalto calcite used in jewelry today is drusy cobalto calcite. Drusy means that there is an incrustation of small crystals on the surface of a rock or mineral. A druse is generally taken to mean a surface thickly covered with tiny equidimensional crystals. As a gem, the size and evenness of coverage are important determinants of quality. Glenn Lehrer, a pioneer in developing techniques of cutting and carving drusy quartz, believes the crystals should be tiny, so that one sees the scintillation of jillions of tiny terminal faces reflecting something better than the ephemeral "thousand points of light".

Si and Ann Frazier, of the "Lapidary Journal" magazine, state that "The word drusy as apart of geological lingo has an interesting history. In English it has almost always been spelled drusy, with an "s", but over the last 10 years or so it has increasingly been spelled "drusy" or even "druzy". According to various etymological authorities, the English word is derived from a German miner's term, die Druse. Although, some people think that it comes from the Greek term meaning "dew". They define it as "a mineralical term for any hollow space in veins of ore, or vesicular cavity in igneous rocks, like amygdaloid, that is lined or studded in crystals -- literally dewy with crystals."

**P.O. Box 279, 122 E. Meadow Drive, Vail, Colorado 81658 (970) 476-4760**