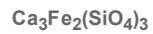


## Object of the Month



### Demantoid Garnet



North Italy

A group of green demantoid garnet crystals on a schist matrix. Demantoid is a variety of andradite, a calcium and iron rich garnet, characterized by a green color which makes it a popular gemstone. The green colour is probably the result of chromium substitution.

It is the most expensive kind of garnet and one of the most precious of all gemstones. Particularly valuable, are the deep emerald green forms which are very rare, and display the spectacular brilliance and fire. Demantoid garnet was first found in the Ural Mountains of Russia in 1868, and quickly became popular with the Russian nobility, and was often used by the famous Russian jeweller, Carl Fabergé.

In addition to the famous localities in Russia and the commercial deposits discovered in Namibia during the 1990s, demantoids are also found in Italy, Afghanistan and Iran.