

Gold

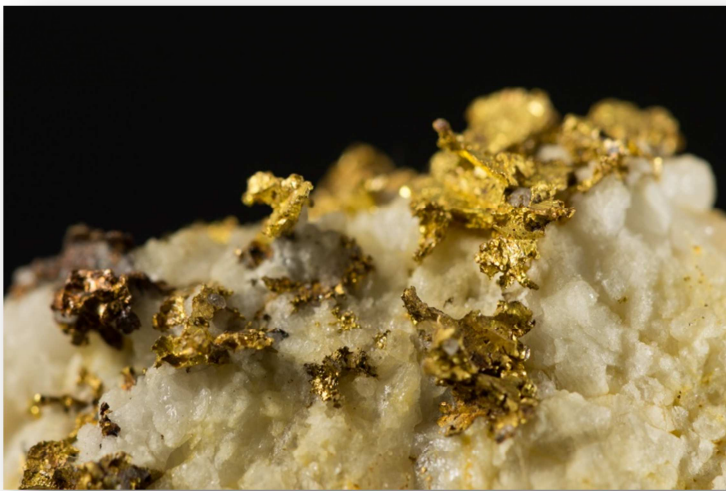
Mineral

Native element

Museo Virtuale
Museo regionale di Scienze Naturali della Valle d'Aosta

Musée Virtuel
Musée Régional des Sciences Naturelles de la Vallée d'Aoste

In Aosta Valley, and more precisely in Val d'Ayas, some significant seams of gold can be found. Near the towns of Brusson and Challand-Saint-Anselme, considerable quantities of the precious metal were extracted from **numerous mines and galleries in the past**.



(Photo MRSN)

To extract gold on an industrial level, gold-bearing quartz (a type of quartz containing a small percentage of gold) was broken up and the gold was extracted using physical-chemical procedures. In some cases, in the gold mining district of Val d'Ayas, the gold can be found in its **native, pure metal form**.

Native Aosta Valley gold is sometimes found in magnificent

crystallised forms. These features have made samples of native crystallised Aosta Valley gold one of the most sought after types for mineral collectors all over the world, displayed in major international museums and exhibitions.

Some samples, including some of excellent quality (worth tens of thousands of euros each) have been extracted in recent decades, but extraction is currently prohibited and the mining district is undergoing requalification.

Along the water course of the Monte Rosa massif, a **few gold hunters still pan for flood gold** (found in the river water) today, using the methods typically seen in Westerns.