

Pink Fluorite on Smoky Quartz

Halide mineral

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One of the most famous mineral combinations found in the Alps is pink fluorite associated with quartz. In Aosta Valley, they are found on the Mont Blanc massif.



(Photo MRSN)

The rocks forming the **Mont Blanc massif** are ancient granites, formed approximately 305 million years ago and subsequently fractured by the rising Alpine mountain chain around 70 million years ago.

Then, around 18.5 million years ago, hydrothermal fluids circulated within the fractured granite at a temperature of about 400°C, creating the crystals found today in the cracks of the granite walls of Europe's highest massif.

The fluorites crystallize in cubic form in the Mont Blanc area and are often found in a **double-pyramid** shape with four faces above and four below (the so-called octahedron) and in colors ranging from light pink to intense red.

Sometimes well-formed octahedral crystals are found in a nice color and grown alongside clear, smoky quartz with well-defined prismatic forms and a brown coloring, creating mineral pairings of **considerable aesthetic and mineralogical value**.

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