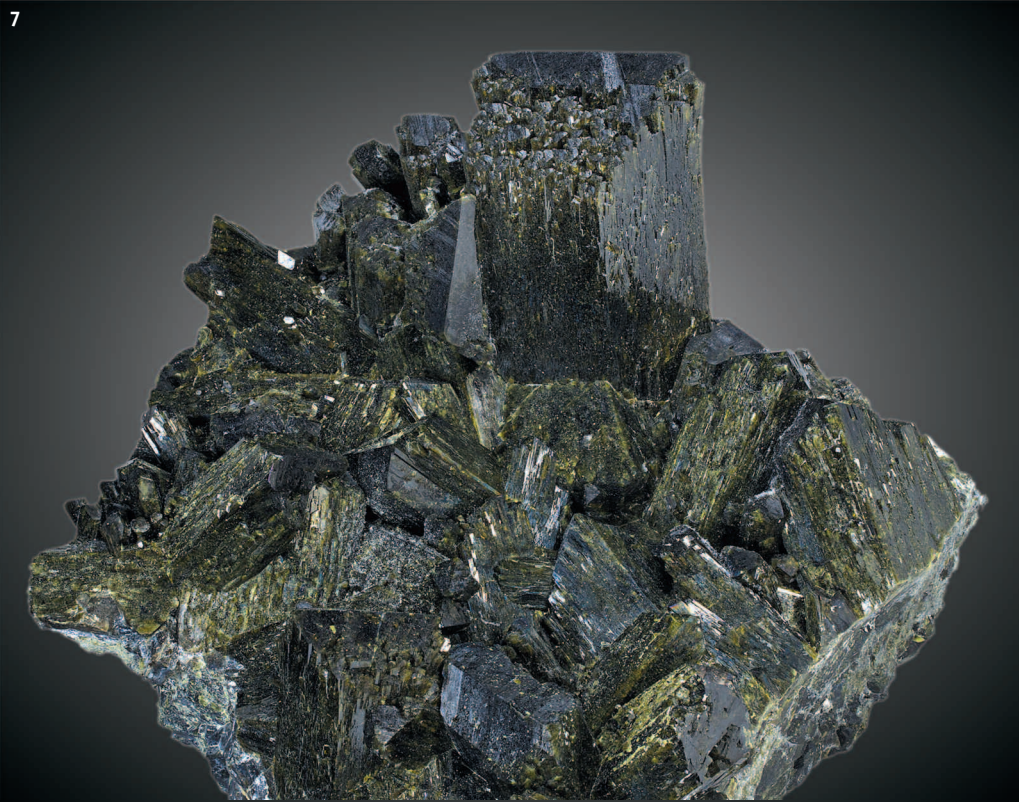




5. Lustrous **whewellite** crystal. 3 cm high. Schlema-Hartenstein, Erzgebirge, Germany. Specimen: Marcus Budil. Photo: Malte Sickinger.



6. Lustrous **whewellite** crystal. 4.5 cm. Schlema-Hartenstein, Erzgebirge, Germany. Specimen: Marcus Budil. Photo: Malte Sickinger.



7. **Epidote** cluster. 27.7 x 24.0 x 16.5 cm. San Cristobal Mine, Chincha Province, Ica Department, Peru. Specimen: *Arkenstone*. Photo: Beth Van Allen.

2. Tucson 2018: Just a Few Items of Interest

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It is a daunting task to try and seriously look at all of the possibly interesting minerals in Tucson- from old to new material, from large to small, from inexpensive to “*out of reach*”, and from exceptionally beautiful to scientifically interesting (though not mutually exclusive of course). From all that I managed to look at this year, I have chosen three items of particular interest available from dealers to describe.

First, from the category of “*old*” specimens were three lustrous, clear and colorless crystals of whewellite acquired from an old collection and available from Marcus Budil. The tallest crystal measures approximately 4.5 cm tall, while a shorter and wider specimen is a nice V-shaped twin. The specimens are not only lovely for this unusual “*organic*” mineral (hydrous calcium oxalate), they are also remarkably well documented. Their accompanying old label indicates they were mined from Shaft 371, 1545 m deep, at Schlema-Hartenstein, Erzgebirge, Germany.

In the “*new find*” department were some large and well-formed, dark green crystals of epidote from Peru. The *Arkenstone* had some very large groups up to perhaps 25 cm across that were labeled as being from San Cristobal Mine, Chincha Province, Ica Department, Peru. Luis Burillo also had some fine specimens ranging in size from small-cabinet up to large clusters that were similar in appearance to those available from The *Arkenstone*; however, Bruillo’s were labeled as being from San Cristobal Hill, San Vicente de Cañete, Cañete Province, Lima Department, Peru. Very nice specimens of these Peruvian epidotes were available at prices ranging from under \$100 upward to many thousands of dollars.

Finally, in the realm of relatively new finds that are both attractive and scientifically interesting are green grossular, variety tsavorite, garnets from the Merelani gem mines in northern Tanzania. Typical for tsavorite, the dominant crystal form is the dodecahedron, but what sets these apart as unusual is that they are usually quite elongated and often show a faden (thread) running down the length of the crystals. Most crystals were loose and in the small thumbnail size range. Also available from several dealers were a few specimens of tsavorite faden of varying quality on graphite matrix.

Matrix specimens were often associated with small pyrite crystals, tan diopside crystals, and small prismatic white calcite crystals. It is interesting to speculate that perhaps the grossular scavenged the chromophores (typically V and/or Cr) giving them the mint-green color over the associated diopside crystals, which were much less colorful. Specimens with a single faden crystal of good form, color and luster and size could cost well over \$1000, but dozens of excellent specimens were available from *The Crystal Circle* (Cincinnati, Ohio, USA), *Cape Town Matrix Crystals* (Asheville, North Carolina, USA), and *Zdenek Prokopec Minerals* (Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic) in the \$20 to \$200 price range.



8. Stacked dodecahedral **grossular** (var. tsavorite) crystals exhibiting a faden running from top to bottom. 1.75 cm tall. Merelani, Tanzania. Specimen: *Cape Town Matrix Crystals*. Photo: John A. Jaszczak.

9. **Grossular** (var. tsavorite) 1.5 cm tall with a distorted dodecahedral habit, bearing two nearly parallel faden visible running from top to bottom through the center and to the right. Merelani, Tanzania. Specimen: *The Crystal Circle*. Photo: John A. Jaszczak.



10. **Quartz** (amethyst). 15 cm width.
Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine,
Wilkes Co., Georgia, USA.
Specimen and Photo: Stuart Wilensky.



11. **Quartz**. 9.2 cm. Tole, Wana,
South Waziristan, FATA, Pakistan.
Specimen: *Fine Minerals International*.
Photo: Benjamin DeCamp.

12. **Apatite**. 10.5 cm.
Nagar, Hunza Valley, Gilgit-
Baltistan, Pakistan.
Specimen: *Fine Minerals International*.
Photo: Steve Koshlap.



13. **Wulfenite**. 12.3 cm.
Los Lamentos Mts., Mun. de Ahumada, Chihuahua, Mexico.
Specimen: *Fine Minerals International*. Photo: Steve Koshlap.

14. **Väyrynenite** crystal (2.85 cm) on matrix.
Urandu Mine, Shigar, Pakistan.
Specimen: *Stonetrust*. Photo: Thomas Spann.

15. **Baryte**. 8 cm.
Elk Creek locality, Dalzell, Meade Co., South Dakota, USA.
Specimen and photo: *Collector's Edge*.

