

11350 Côte d'Azur Violet

Mica-like, hard slate, colored violet by iron and manganese. Intermediate stage between ochers and Radiolarites. If there were local sources of strongly colored minerals these pigments had some regional importance.

In Switzerland close to Sargans and between Nice and Turin in the sea-alps there are two places of discovery, accessible today.

Mica-like hard schist, colored purple by iron and manganese, especially opaque by titanium. Intermediate stage of ocher and radiolarite.

This shade was much used in Italian painting and also north of the Alps. The Asam brothers painted vestments of angels and saints in many churches with this shade. Although the original locality is not known to this day, despite many investigations, the mineral seems to occur in various places in practically indistinguishable quality.

We found this color material first in the south of France at the Côte d'Azur, meanwhile the material comes from Switzerland between Chur and Zurich.

There is also a green stone there, which behaves quite similarly to the violet hue. The violet, this green and the corresponding Melser gray result in an excellent matching color tone. This is based on a mineralogical peculiarity, because the mica, due to its high proportion of titanium, obtains a higher opacity than is otherwise usual with earth colors.