

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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Rosette Nebula

This infrared image from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope shows the central portion of the Rosette Nebula. In optical light, the nebula looks like a rosebud. But lurking inside this delicate cosmic flower are super hot stars, called O-stars, whose radiation and winds have collectively excavated layers of dust (green) and gas away, revealing the cavity of cooler dust (red). Some of the Rosette's O-stars can be seen in the bubble-like red cavity; however, the largest two blue stars in this picture are in the foreground and not in the nebula itself.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Z. Balog (Univ. of Ariz./Univ. of Szeged)

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