

Fancy Color Diamonds

Beautiful color and extreme wearability

It seems that nearly every family in America owns at least one colorless diamond. Most of us are familiar with the variety of traits that are used to evaluate those gems. The four C's have made their way in to popular culture so when someone brags about the color of their diamond, most people will wonder which letter of the alphabet that color is. Is it an extremely colorless "D," or is it an off-color like "K" or "L." Today, we would like to feature natural fancy colored diamonds.

The term "fancy color" is used to indicate diamonds with intense enough color to be desirable as opposed to those that are just not very colorless. Some colors like blue and pink are so rare that even a hint of color is desirable. Other colors like yellow and brown are less rare, and require stronger color to be considered valuable.

The term "natural" is used to indicate that these diamonds were fancy colored before they were mined. It is also possible to buy diamonds which have been colored in the lab, usually by irradiation.

Natural fancy diamonds come in the following colors - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, black, brown, pink, gray and white. The most common is brown, also known as champagne di-

amonds. Brown diamonds are created when the crystal lattice is distorted by heat and pressure deep within the earth causing absorption of blue wavelengths and causing the diamond to appear brown. While champagne diamonds can be found in several locations, the majority of them are produced at the Argyle mine in Australia. The term cognac is reserved for the most intense brown colors.

Yellow diamonds are a favorite on the red carpet

because of their high visibility. As a result, many consumers are familiar with them and the term "canary." Yellow diamonds are also found in several locations, but the predominate supplier is South Africa. Most diamonds contain trace amounts of nitrogen, but in yellow diamonds the nitrogen atoms are arranged in such a way that they also absorb blue wavelengths and the result this time is a yellow diamond. Intense yellow diamonds without modifying colors are referred to as canary yellow diamonds.

Pink diamonds are also formed by heat and pressure distorting the crystal lattice. This time however, green wavelengths are absorbed leaving the diamond appearing pink. Since the method of coloring is the same as brown diamonds, it should come as no surprise that the world's largest producer of pink diamonds is also the Argyle mine in Australia. In fact, prior to the production of pinks from the Argyle mine, they were considered among the very rarest of colors. It is common for pinks to have modifying colors such as purplish-pink or brownish-pink. The most intense version of pink is red which is extremely rare. The largest red diamond known is the 5.11 carat shield shaped Moussiaf Red.

Blue diamonds are also very rare, but are better known because of the famous 45 carat Hope diamond now housed at the Smithsonian Museum. The vast majority of blue diamonds owe their color to the presence of boron. The bonding of boron to carbon causes absorption in the red, yellow and green parts of the spectrum producing a blue color. Top producers are the Cullinan mine and the Golconda region of Southern India.

Natural black diamonds are much less common than their irradiated counterparts. The natural version owes its color to dark inclusions within the stone.

0.74ct fancy intense yellow diamond with 0.46ctw side diamonds in 18KT \$6800

0.85ct champagne diamond with 0.60ctw side diamonds in palladium \$5400

0.35ctw fancy yellow diamonds in platinum filigree earrings \$3800

0.33ct fancy purplish pink diamond in stackable ring \$7100

0.91ct fancy gray rose cut diamond with 0.08ctw side diamonds \$1200

Spring Bead Sale

We have lots of new beads arriving now
for spring.

Come in February 27 - March 1
and all strands of beads will be

50% OFF

the single strand price
regardless of quantity!

*Buy 5 strands at once, anytime before
the sale and get 40% OFF!*



Silver Beads & Findings

New this spring -
Big increase in ethnic silver
beads and findings

5 or more bags gets 20% OFF,
25 or more bags gets 40% OFF!

Gemstone Cabs

Lots of new gemstone cabs including South African
pietersite, koroit opal, gaspeite, moonstone, charoite,
tiffany stone, aquamarine and rutilated quartz.

Buy 5 or more custom cabs and get 20% OFF,
10 or more cabs gets 30% OFF!

