



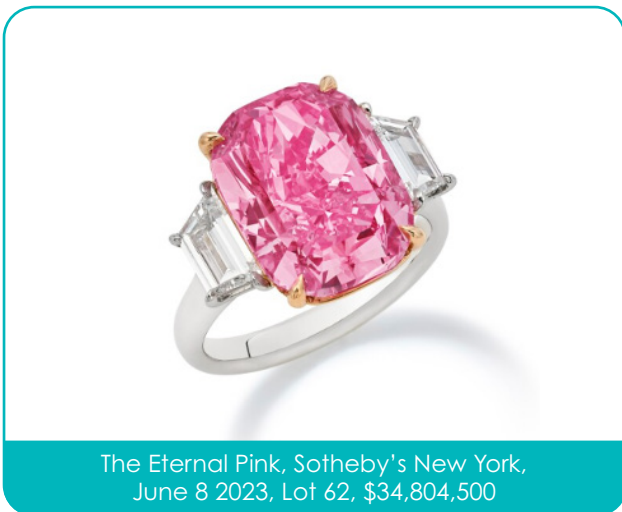
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Aurélia Turrall
Jewellery Specialist

THINK PINK – THE ALLURE AND RARITY OF PINK DIAMONDS

I had the privilege of getting my hands on a pink diamond, though a very brief encounter, it was certainly an enjoyable one. Having valued jewellery for almost fifteen years now, the opportunity to observe and inspect pink diamonds is still a rare occasion. Let alone a pink diamond from the Argyle mine in Australia.



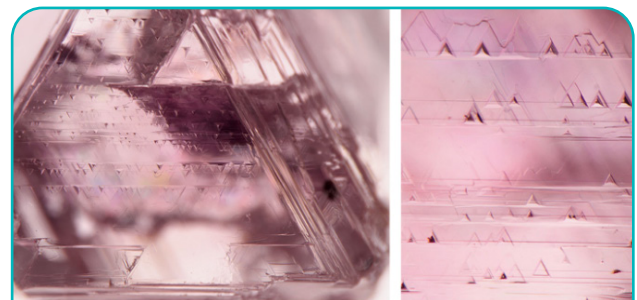
The Eternal Pink, Sotheby's New York,
June 8 2023, Lot 62, \$34,804,500



The Sweet Josephine, Christie's Geneva,
Nov 8 2015, Lot 409, CHF 28,725,000

Why are pink diamonds so special?

Unlike blue or yellow diamonds, who get their colour from trace elements such as boron or nitrogen, pink diamonds are pink due to crystal distortion. When nitrogen is contained in a pink diamond, it is generally concentrated along the glide planes of the diamonds.



A 0.31 ct pink octahedral diamond crystal with rows of negative trigons Right: close-up shows the horizontal rows of trigons marking the location of pink glide planes.
Photomicrographs by Evan M. Smith

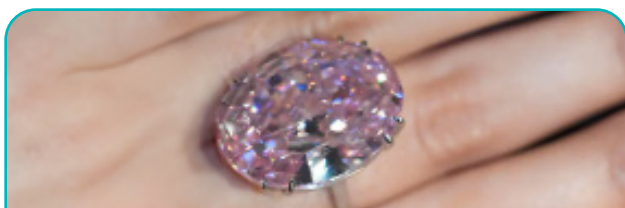
Since their discovery in the early 17th century in India, pink diamonds have also been mined in Brazil, South Africa, Tanzania, Canada, Australia and Russia. It is believed that around 80% of the world's pink diamonds now originate from the Argyle mine in Kimberley, Western Australia, which sadly closed in 2020. From the mine's 20 million carat annual output, only 0.1% are classified as pink diamonds. In 2018, the GIA selected a sample of 1,000 pink diamonds graded between 2008 and 2016 and found that 83% weighed less than one carat.

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Other aspects of deformation are involved to create the colour pink and is often the cause for high colour saturation making these diamonds the most expensive diamonds to be sold at auction.

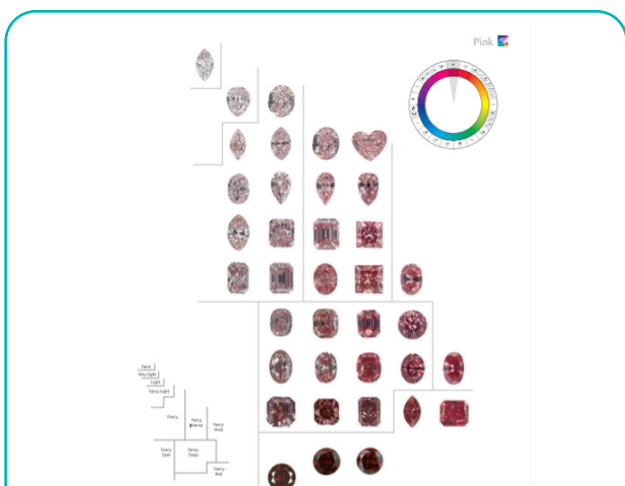
In 1999, De Beers found a 132.5 carat rough diamond, which took two years to cut and polish. This resulted in a 59.60 carat Internally Flawless Fancy Vivid Pink diamond, the largest the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has ever graded with the highest colour and clarity grades from the GIA for pink diamonds.

The Pink Star was sold in Hong Kong in 2017 for HK\$553 million, £56 million. That's almost £1 million per carat.



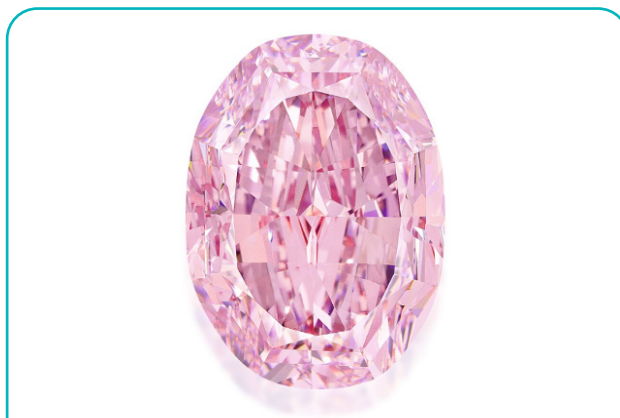
The Pink Star – The most expensive pink diamond

As with other coloured diamonds, pink diamonds are graded on their colour by the GIA using the classing: Faint, Very Light, Light, Fancy Light, Fancy, Fancy Intense, Fancy Vivid. Similarly, to other coloured diamonds, Fancy Vivid is the most sought-after colour. In a GIA study conducted in 2022, it was determined that only 2% of pink Type IIa diamonds were graded as Fancy Vivid Pink.

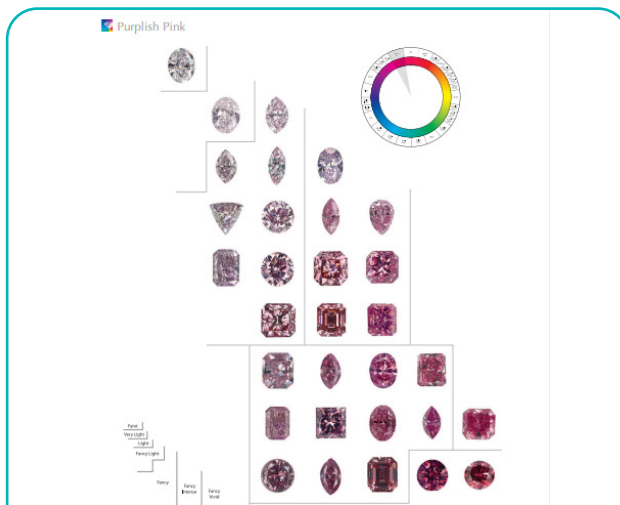


GIA pink diamond colour chart

Similar in hue to the Fancy Vivid Purplish Pink diamond I had the pleasure of handling is the spectacular 'The Spirit of the Rose'. The diamond got its name from Vaslav Nijinsky's legendary ballet, Le Spectre de la rose. The 14.83 carat Fancy Vivid Purple-Pink, Internally Flawless, Type IIa diamond was mined and cut from a 27.85-carat clear pink rough diamond, Russia's largest pink crystal ever mined and was known as the 'Nijinsky'.



The Spirit of the Rose, Sotheby's Geneva, November 2020, Lot 204, 24,393,000 CHF



GIA purplish pink diamond grading chart

When one understands all these factors impacting the rarity of such coloured diamonds, it becomes more comprehensible to attribute price tags for such exceptional stones. Nature overwhelms us with its beauty, and sometimes we are lucky enough to spend time observing it.