

karats



Diamonds are for April-born

The diamond is the most accepted birthstone for the April-born, although Americans, Italians, and Russians occasionally substitute the sapphire, September's rightful birthstone.

The vast majority of diamonds today are mined on the African continent. Australia, however, boasts the newest serious source, with the US and Canada hoping to soon take this title ; the oldest sources are India and Borneo.

Since ancient times the diamond has been regarded as a symbol of fearlessness. It was, and still is by some, thought to impart courage, invincibility, and daring; and promote constancy and friendship. Kenneth Parkinson, in his book, "Birthstones and Talismanic Gems", also relates the following properties of diamonds: taken internally, it supposedly acted as a strong poison; also, it was said to bear the power of healing lunacy; a wives' tale that endures to this day is that it "quickens affection, and restores love between husband and wife."

Diamond is the only gemstone composed of a single element, carbon. As diamond is the hardest natural substance in existence, it was not until the mid-fourteen hundreds that the method of cutting them became known to Western cultures: one diamond is employed to cut another, as it is the nature of the crystal to be harder in one "direction" than the other.

With diamond, the apparent absence of color is most preferred. The value of diamond, as with most gemstones is more commonly determined by size, color, and clarity. Some fancy colored diamonds; blue, pink, and lavender are more valuable per carat than the colorless. A few years ago, a red diamond weighing slightly less than a carat rocked the diamond world when it sold for almost one million dollars.

The gift of a diamond as a birthstone can be both thoughtful and creative. A father might give a birthstone to his wife for the month in which their child is born; it can then be handed down to that child when he or she reaches an appropriate age.

Especially with a diamond, where so many graduations in color, clarity, and size occur, it is wise to visit your preferred jeweler. He or she can show you a complete range of stones compatible with your budget, and help you decide on an appropriate setting.

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