

KUNZITE

Collectors love kunzite for its color range, from delicate pastel pink to intense violetish purple.



ABOUT KUNZITE



Kunzite is the best-known variety of the mineral spodumene. It's named after famed gemologist George Frederick Kunz, who was the first to identify it as a unique variety of spodumene.

Kunzite gets its delicate color from trace amounts of manganese. California's San Diego County is an important source of kunzite.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Some consider kunzite to be an alternate birthstone for February.

TREATMENTS

There are a number of processes used to alter the color, apparent clarity, or improve the durability of gems.

SYNTHETICS

Some gemstones have synthetic counterparts that have essentially the same chemical, physical, and optical properties, but are grown by man in a laboratory.

IMITATIONS

Any gem can be imitated—sometimes by manmade materials or by natural materials chosen by man to impersonate a particular gem.

SPODUMENE

Kunzite is the best-known variety of spodumene. Others are green hiddenite and yellow triphane.

A "NEW" GEM

Kunzite was first recognized as a unique variety of spodumene around 1902.

LITHIUM

The pegmatites that yield kunzite are also a source of lithium.

FACTS

MINERAL: Spodumene

CHEMISTRY: $\text{LiAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$

Color: Pink-violetish purple, light-intense

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.660 to 1.676

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 3.18

Mohs Hardness: 6.5 to 7.0

BIREFRINGENCE: 0.014 to 0.016



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

AFFORDABLE

In spite of its rarity and beauty, kunzite can be quite affordable because it's relatively unknown.

BLADES

Kunzite is monoclinic and its crystals often take on a blade-like shape. Its rough form is dramatic.

PEGMATITES

Kunzites are found in pegmatite deposits, often along with tourmaline, beryl, and other gems.