CITRINE

Citrine is the transparent, pale yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz.

ABOUT CITRINE

Citrine is rare in nature. In the days before modern gemology, its tawny color caused it to be confused with topaz.

Today, its attractive color, plus the durability and affordability it shares with most other quartzes, makes it the top-selling yellow-to-orange gem. In the contemporary market, citrine's most popular shade is an earthy, deep, brownish or reddish orange.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Along with topaz, citrine is a birthstone for November. It's also recognized as the gem that commemorates the thirteenth anniversary.

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.

IRON

A trace of iron in citrine's structure is responsible for its yellow-to-orange color.

HEAT

Natural citrine is rare. Most citrine on the market is the result of heat treatment of amethyst.

POPULAR

Citrine is recognized as one of the most popular and frequently purchased yellow gemstones.

FACTS

Mineral: Quartz

Chemistry: SiO_2

Color: Yellow to orange to orangy red

Refractive Index: 1.544 to 1.553

Specific Gravity: 2.66 (+0.03/-0.02)

Mohs Hardness: 7

WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

AFFORDABLE

Even fine citrine has a modest price tag. Large gems remain affordable, as price per carat does not rise dramatically for larger sizes.

GEODES

Giant hollow crystal-lined amethyst geodes from areas like Brazil are often heated to become giant citrine "cathedrals."

AMETRINE

In Bolivia, amethyst and citrine colors can occur together in the same crystal. These unique gems are called ametrine.