

AMETHYST

The essence of the color purple, amethyst is beautiful enough for crown jewels yet affordable enough for class rings.



ABOUT AMETHYST



Amethyst was as expensive as ruby and emerald until the 19th Century, when Brazil's large deposits were discovered. It was believed to prevent intoxication; amethystos means "not drunk" in ancient Greek.

Today, as the most valued quartz variety, amethyst is in demand for designer pieces and mass-market jewelry alike, and its purple to pastel hues retain wide consumer appeal.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Amethyst is the birthstone for February and the gem for the 6th and 17th wedding anniversaries.

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.

ST. VALENTINE

The patron of romantic love wore an amethyst ring carved with the image of Cupid.

CAMILLO LEONARDI

The astrologer wrote that amethyst quickens intelligence and gets rid of evil thoughts.

164 POUNDS

Single amethyst crystals can be huge: the GIA Museum displayed a doubly terminated crystal that weighed 164 pounds.

FACTS

MINERAL: Quartz

CHEMISTRY: SiO_2

Color: Purple

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.544 to 1.553

BIREFRINGENCE: 0.009

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 2.66

MOHS HARDNESS: 7



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

GEODES

In gem localities like Brazil, amethyst sometimes forms in hollow, crystal-lined geodes so big you can stand in them.

AFFORDABLE

Even fine amethyst has a modest price tag. Large gems remain affordable as price per carat does not rise dramatically with larger size.

AMETRINE

In Bolivia, amethyst and citrine occur in the same crystal. The unique gems, called ametrine, are half purple and half yellow.