



Diamond secret watch with 33.37-carat carved tourmaline by Graff

LA VIE EN ROSE

*Pink stones are set to take centre stage this year—and if you have a passion for the shade, Mother Nature offers plenty of options, writes jeweller and coloured stone expert **Tayma Page Allies***

WHEN THE SURREALIST designer Elsa Schiaparelli saw the 17-carat vivid pink diamond her glamorous client Daisy Fellowes was wearing, she described its colour and size as “shocking.” And in 1937, when Schiaparelli created the Shoe Hat for Fellowes, the magenta of its heel was described as “hot” for all the attention it attracted. Thanks to these two women, we have two fabulous descriptions for a flirty, sexy, racy pink—and what gorgeous gems there are to be deserving of such adjectives.

Hot-pink rubellite tourmaline is the perfect gemstone for women who like to stand out in a crowd. Large, good-quality rubellites with no visible natural impurities (what the industry calls inclusions) have a high value and are becoming rarer on the market, so snap them up while you still can. Prices for rubellite increased substantially when the stone caught the eyes of Asian gemstone investors and more than doubled recently for gems of more than three carats.

About 20 per cent of the tourmaline from the Cruzeiro mine in Brazil, one of the world’s main producers, is rubellite, but only a few crystals are of gem quality. Many of the country’s older mines are exhausted, so gem hunters need to find collectors with old stock.

Rubellite crystals have a complex chemical structure and are coloured by small amounts of manganese, lithium and iron. It’s the different levels of these elements that produce the amazing tones, from soft pinks and bluish baby pinks to chocolate pinks and the striking watermelon pink and green gemstones. Indeed, watermelon, bi- and tri-colour tourmalines grow in every colour imaginable. As each gem is unique, finding a matching pair for earrings is always a challenge.

My tip for tourmaline collectors? Collect watermelons, and seek out the pink and lavender Paraiba-type gems. These extremely rare pink tourmalines are special because they contain traces of copper, putting them in a similar category to the electric neon-turquoise Paraiba tourmalines.

What if your inclination is towards the softer pinks? Pantone says pastel pink is the colour of the year. Consider rose quartz, a plentiful crystal that’s said to bring serenity, compassion and wellness to the wearer. With

its soft, muted tones, the larger pieces are extremely eye-catching.

Another lovely gemstone is the peachy pink morganite, discovered in 1911 and named by Tiffany & Co gemmologist George Kunz after the banker JP Morgan, who was also a gem collector. It’s the pink translucent variety of beryl, which includes aquamarine, green beryl and emerald. Colour and clarity are the most important considerations, and expect to pay prices similar to those for quality aquamarine. Extremely feminine and pretty, morganite looks gorgeous set in rose gold and is perfect for brides. Add some pink pearls in an individual design and you have jewellery you’ll enjoy wearing long after the wedding day.

Vivid pink diamonds may be setting auction records, but exceptional stones weighing more than three carats are very hard to find. Kunzite, a lovely sparkly lavender gem, can look very much like a pink diamond on the finger and for that reason, is now finding favour with jewellery designers and gem collectors. An interesting gem find of the 20th century, the stone was named after Kunz, who first described it in 1902. Its original name was pink spodumene—and I wonder if it would have enjoyed the same success if its name hadn’t been changed.

One tip: don’t wear kunzite when sunbathing or swimming, as the colour is not stable and the gem may fade under strong sunlight. In fact, jewellery should never be worn when swimming, as chlorine attacks the gold, and hot sunshine and cold water may crack a gemstone.

It’s easy to forget that beautiful gems are created by nature under extreme heat and pressure, that the inclusions are the handprints and DNA of each crystal, and that the colours vary according to the minerals in the ground where they formed. Given the challenges involved in bringing these coloured crystals out of the ground, and the skill of the lapidaries in cutting and polishing them, these gems deserve respect as valuable gifts from the earth.

With so many lovely pink gemstones to choose from, it’s a breeze to find the perfect shade to complement your colouring. True luxury is wearing jewellery that’s a one-off piece, perhaps created especially for you: a special gem that highlights your personality and character.

THINK PINK

Satisfy your sweet tooth with these candy-coloured jewels



Clockwise from above: Anniversary morganite necklace by Tiffany & Co; Halo Delilah morganite earrings by Boucheron worn by Gwyneth Paltrow at the 2013 British Fashion Awards; Hopi morganite ring by Boucheron; morganite earrings in rose gold by Tayma Fine Jewellery; Soie Dior Gros Grain Saphir Rose bracelet by Dior Joaillerie



Gwyneth Paltrow, Jennifer Lopez and Mariah Carey are just a few of Hollywood's glamour girls who love to wear pink gems. Gwyneth was spotted wearing a pair of pale pink morganite earrings at the British Fashion Awards—and who could forget Jennifer and Mariah's fabulous pink diamond engagement rings?

This season, designers have given the sweet pastel shade a refreshingly offbeat attitude with combinations in bright yellow, like Victoire de Castellane's Soie Dior collection. Uniquely shaped morganites are artistically set in rose gold and paired with diamonds. The grandest maisons of the Place Vendôme in Paris are experimenting with more types of precious stones in their high jewellery with increasing frequency, and this has thankfully trickled down to the city's fine jewellery collections. ❶

Make Me Blush

A few things to remember about our favourite pink gemstones



PINK SAPPHIRE

The most coveted hues for this gemstone are saturated purplish red with a medium tone—often described as “hot pink” or “bubblegum pink.” (Ring by Anna Hu)



MORGANITE

This gem's colour range includes pink, rose, peach and salmon. Look for large, faceted stones for these show stronger hues. (Ring by Tayma Fine Jewellery)



SPINEL

Frequently confused with ruby, fine-coloured spinel is rare above five carats, and the most valued hues are bright red and vivid pink. (Ring by Van Cleef & Arpels)



PINK DIAMOND

Due to their extreme rarity, most vivid pink diamonds range in the millions of dollars per carat and come from Australia's Argyle Mine. (Ring by Chow Tai Fook)



ROSE QUARTZ

One of the Pantone colours of the year, this gem's hue comes from mineral inclusions. The best come in well-shaped, transparent crystals. (Ring by Pomellato)