

Red Beryl

Some basic Information

Questions? Scroll down to Q&A

First, you may ask, "What is BERYL?" Beryl is a family of gems that have a chemical composition of Beryllium, Aluminum and Silicate. Two very well known members of the beryl family are Aquamarine and Emerald. The different colors are caused by trace amounts of some other mineral. Beryl that is red is caused by magnesium. If it's green, then chromium or vanadium are the coloring elements.

Without question, Red Beryl is one of the rarest gems on earth! In fact, in 2006 the Jeweler's Association named it as the rarest (colored) gemstone on earth. With all due respect, I disagree! Based on personal experience I believe that red beryl is now the *second* rarest, with extraterrestrial peridot from outer space, being the rarest. (See our meteorite page for more information.) After red beryl hit the market it was advertised that *only one woman in two million* would ever own a stone of one carat size. The Violet Claim Mine was closed and it looks like it will never reopen.

The red beryl from the Thomas Range is also extremely rare and can still be found with lots of luck. I was very lucky and managed to find a number of very nice red beryl mineral specimens, but not without the help of my rockhound buddy! Some of those specimens are offered on the main web page. The Thomas Range crystals although generally opaque and tabular, are still wonderful specimens, and when in combination with topaz or sister *bixbyite*, are much more rare and interesting specimens than the violet claim crystals.

After our prospecting trip, I soon realized that the availability of suitable rough, of ANY decent size, even at astronomical prices, was not going to happen! Period! So, I began a search for hydrothermally grown red beryl hoping to find the right color and the same high-quality crystals as lab grown emerald. I definitely did not want the off-color pinkish junk being offered elsewhere! I now have a small supply of rough crystals with the top color -- it's described as "raspberry" or "stoplight" red color. I use the largest available crystals with the potential to produce an 8 to 10 mm stone at the largest.

BUYER BE AWARE of what's being offered on the market!! Not all red beryl is the same. **Natural crystals** are either from Utah's Wah Wah mountains or the Thomas Range. **Pressure treated** red beryl often shows up for sale; this treatment is not being properly disclosed to the buyer! Just like a big percentage of emerald, treatments are done to improve the clarity, making the gem look better, and thus increase the price being asked by the seller! Some fillers can boil out when the stone is heated or even fall apart when cleaned ultrasonically. Any treated gem should be properly disclosed. Such treatments are usually NOT permanent, and the stone can change back to the original lower clarity grade. Statements are being made by some sellers, saying that some small amount of oil is "absorbed" during the cutting process and there may be some present in the finished gem, etc. If the stone is solid, no oil will be absorbed. If the stone is really a lower grade, fractured crystal, that is a clue, but if that's the case, keep your eye on your wallet! It is what it is!

Oiled or not oiled! Beware of such nebulous caveats! Sadly, there are a number of dealers (from India especially), selling *something* illegally labeled as "Genuine Red Beryl" with an unknown lab certificate of authenticity.

Watch out if the *color* is not right -- obviously treated (but not properly disclosed), *sizes* much larger than normally found, *dirt cheap prices* are offered, then beware of fakes that are meant to rip you off!

Genuine red beryl crystals that have been hydrothermally grown in a modern laboratory process, are not some other mineral that has been treated, heated or filled or faked (simulated) to look like red beryl. They are genuine red beryl, with the SAME physical and chemical properties as mined crystals. These are the lab grown crystals that I personally facet.

If I could find or afford comparable mined crystals that's what I would cut; they simply are not available and the majority of those that are cut, are not pretty because they are usually terribly fractured and/or included. So, like most fine artists, I want to paint on the best canvas that's available -- in this case it's the lab-grown crystals!

Pezzoittaite from Madagascar is similar in appearance but is NOT red beryl. It has a different refractive index, as well as different density and specific gravity.

Aquamarine is heated and diffusion treated which means a small number of manganese atoms transfer to the aquamarine in a thin film which changes the color to red. It is NOT red beryl.

Take a step back and look at what your buying! As with all collectibles, deals that seem too good to be true, probably are! There is no "fine print" on our guarantee. Order your gem. If you are not completely satisfied, let us know in 7 days and if it has not been damaged, then we want it back! No questions asked.

Red Beryl Questions and Answers

Q. Do you guarantee your lab grown gems are really red beryl?

A. Yes! We have a 100% money back guarantee that our red beryl is genuine red beryl that is lab grown. There are 4 different things to compare crystals that are lab grown vs mined. First, lab grown crystals are larger. Second, lab grown crystals do not look beat-up, or fractured or included. Third, lab grown crystals have consistent top color. Fourth, and most importantly, lab grown crystals and gems are not nearly as expensive. Rick has been interested in red beryl since it became popular 15 years ago. He has mined crystals in the Thomas Range, Utah and purchased specimens from the original Violet Claim mine owners. There have been several labs producing red beryl and we have found only one that produces the top "stoplight red" colors and that grows crystals that are physically, chemically and optically identical to mined crystal. Lab grown simply means that man does in a lab, what Mother Nature does in the ground. The crystals are identical in composition and physical characteristics. After learning about this gem, it was evident that crystals out of the ground were not suitable for producing the quality gems we want to cut or sell. So, Rick decided to concentrate on the lab grown crystals. Stinson's gems are delivered with our Certificate of Authenticity and are guaranteed authentic and to meet your standards of quality. We back this up with our 100 % money back guarantee of satisfaction.

Q. Can I return a red beryl if it is not the gem I want?

A. Absolutely. Your satisfaction is of paramount importance to us. If you order a gem and it does not suit you, you have 7 days after you receive it, to notify us. As long as the gem is undamaged, then WE WANT IT BACK!! We will give you instructions for returning the gem and after receipt, we'll refund your money (in the same way you paid).

Q. Will red beryl make a good ring?

A. Yes! As with ANY gem, you should know something about it. First, it is one of the rarest gems. Larger gems cannot be easily replaced due to the scarcity of large crystals. Red beryl is something to be treasured and taken care of. With any jewelry, so much depends on the person wearing it and caring for the gem(s). Gems in the beryl family (emerald, aquamarine, heilidor, morganite and red beryl) generally make very good jewelry – because they have excellent hardness, are not heat sensitive, are not brittle; but like all gems, they demand respect and must have proper care.

Q. I've seen some red beryl gems that are cheaper, why are some of your stones higher priced?

A. You get what you pay for. Many dealers and most jewelers do NOT cut their own gems. They are middlemen, with no control of design, or craftsmanship. Some offer run-of-the-mill, native cuts from overseas, that are improperly cut, color may be OK, but they typically have minimal sparkle. They ARE cheap! Also, be sure to read the fine print on any guarantees and you will often find a lot of road blocks to get your money back, if you are not satisfied. We stand behind our gems with a solid money back guarantee of satisfaction. We cut our own gems and control stone quality, design and craftsmanship.

Q. I see some stones are very close in weight and size but different in price. Why is that?

A. There a couple of possibilities. First, such differences in pricing are made due to judgments about the clarity, design, symmetry or inclusions that show after a gem is finished. In the case of red beryl, most gems are eye clean. Even though flawed gems are normal for red beryl, and some customers only want flawed gems in this species, when one has some noticeable flaws that show after cutting, the price is reduced. The second reason for differences is that we don't have time to go back and forth, repricing everything that fluctuates in price. Gems are priced at the time of being cut and added to inventory, so generally there will be some variations.

Q. I want a one-of-a-kind red beryl -- can you do that? What does it cost?

A. Yes, we can. As long as we have or can get the rough that is suitable for the shape and size you want, we'll design and cut your special gem. Costs depend on the size, complexity of the cut and the carat weight of the finished piece. Many of our custom projects are in the \$400 to \$700 price range. Just email: stinsons@gemservice.com and let us know:

1. The shape and size, [square, round, emerald (rectangle) trilliant (triangle) or cushion.] size in millimeters if possible. For a lady or gentleman?
2. How much you want to spend or approximate budget. We'll go as fancy/complex/unique as possible and keep within your budget.

3. Time frame. How soon do you need the finished piece? Note: Rick is usually booked solid with custom orders so it's best to order 8 to 12 weeks in advance. Custom cut gems for special occasions, anniversaries, birthdays, Valentine's, Mother's, engagements, Christmas gifts should be ordered NOW!!

Q. I have some red beryl crystals that I would like to have cut. What do you charge?

A. We only cut gems from our own stock. We do NOT cut red beryl crystals that come out of the ground! Wish it were not so, but they are best left as mineral specimens. We have looked at hundreds of crystals over the last decade and have never found a single one priced under \$10K, that we wanted to cut! They are too included, fractured, too small and way too expensive! We urge our customers to beware of "natural" gems on the market as many are "filled" to enhance clarity and thus increase the price. Any treatment should be disclosed to the buyer.

Q. Some small red beryl gems look lighter in color. Are they something different?

A. They are cut from exactly the same crystals as the larger gems. The difference is due to the thickness of the final gem. Smaller gems mean less thickness. And any time a gem crystal --or any transparent or translucent material is decreased in thickness, the color will be lighter. The same goes for larger gems. More depth means deeper color. Some dark colors like deep green tourmaline, red garnet, smoky quartz, etc., may be so dark in large sizes, that it's hard to get light to reflect so gems may not have as much sparkle. Red beryl isn't usually affected, except in a few extremely large sizes over 10mm in diameter. Smaller red beryls are also fiery red and sparkle if properly cut!

Got a comment or question? Email Rick: stinsons@gemservice.com

Click on the "BACK" arrow at top, to return to Red Beryl Page