



GIA®

AQUAMARINE



Named after seawater, aquamarine's fresh watery hue is like a cool plunge into a refreshing pool. Fine aquamarines are a marriage between color and clarity. The best are dark blue to slightly greenish blue with no visible inclusions. Careful cutting maximizes both qualities to produce superb gems.



AQUAMARINE COLOR

Aquamarine is pastel blue, greenish blue, or green-blue. The preferred aquamarine color is a dark blue to slightly

greenish blue with moderate intensity and is most striking in gems of over 5 carats. Fine stones show even blue color with no zoning.

AQUAMARINE CLARITY

Most faceted aquamarines are free of eye-visible inclusions. Collectors generally expect clean gems with good transparency. There is a trend today to use included, but good-color aquamarines as unique centerpieces for jewelry articles or even as partially polished crystal slices or nuggets in necklaces.



TIPS AND ADVICE

TOP QUALITY AQUAMARINE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY EYE VISIBLE INCLUSIONS.

Like emerald, aquamarine is a variety of the mineral beryl. Unlike emerald, inclusions are much less acceptable in aquamarine. Aquamarine that is milky or included is much less expensive, although it may be beautiful in its own way.

IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS.

Fine aquamarine is rare and expensive. Large gems with intense color that are selling for less than \$100 are unlikely to be aquamarine.

TRUST YOUR COLOR PREFERENCES.

If you prefer an aquamarine color that has more green in it, you can buy a beautiful gem for less than you would pay for the same gem if it was a pure blue.

WORK WITH A JEWELER WITH EXPERTISE.

Judging the quality of aquamarine requires skill and knowledge. Look for a jeweler with gemological credentials. A jeweler who knows and loves aquamarine will have several to show you so you can see quality differences side by side.



AQUAMARINE CUT

Aquamarines can be cut into almost any shape, but cutters often fashion them as emerald cuts or as round or oval brilliants. Many

gem artists use aquamarine for one-of-a-kind designer cuts because their styles maximize the material's pure, even color and high clarity.

AQUAMARINE CARAT WEIGHT

Aquamarine is available in large sizes—many fine gems of 25 carats or greater are readily available. Generally, smaller accent sizes are pale: cut gems are more likely to have a darker color if they are larger than 5 carats.



FAQ

Q: WHY DOES AQUAMARINE COST SO MUCH MORE THAN BLUE TOPAZ THAT'S ALMOST THE SAME COLOR?

A: Blue topaz is more common because the color is produced by treating colorless topaz with radiation. And while aquamarine undergoes treatment to improve its blue color, aquamarine is more rare in nature, especially with fine color. Its long history as a gem also adds to its collectability.

Q: WHY DON'T THE AQUAMARINE SIDE STONES IN MY RING MATCH THE CENTER STONE?

A: Aquamarine's color gets more intense as it gets larger. It is very difficult to find small sizes with saturated color: most stones below a carat in size have a pale color.

Q: ARE ORIGINS LIKE "SANTA MARIA" IMPORTANT TO THE VALUE OF AQUAMARINES?

A: Although it's always interesting to know where a gem was mined, origin isn't an important factor in an aquamarine's value. Famous mines are well-regarded because they produce fine quality gems that are valuable; however gems aren't fine or valuable just because they come from famous mines.

Q: WHAT IS AAA AQUAMARINE?

A: Although individual companies might create their own quality descriptions, like AAA, AA, A to denote the range of quality of their goods, no standard quality-grading scales exist for aquamarine.

Q: DOES GIA GRADE AQUAMARINE?

A: GIA doesn't grade aquamarine. GIA Gemological Identification Reports assess the characteristics of a mounted or loose aquamarine (weight, measurements, shape, cutting style and color), state whether it is natural or synthetic, and indicate any detectable treatments.

GIA exists to connect people to the understanding of gems.

As a long-standing scientific authority, GIA is not only a unique source for gem knowledge, its grading reports inspire confidence wherever they appear.

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