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 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.

**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.

**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 a unique source for gem knowledge, its grading reports inspire confidence wherever they appear.

For more information on GIA visit: www.4Cs.gia.edu