Emerald is the bluish green to green variety of beryl, a mineral species that includes aquamarine. The most valued variety of beryl, emerald was once cherished by Spanish conquistadors, Inca kings, Moguls, and pharaohs. Today, fine gems come from South America, Africa, and Central Asia.

**TIPS AND ADVICE**

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

Natural emerald generally has inclusions. A well-priced gem that appears flawless in clarity is considered suspect as it is likely to be a synthetic or simulant.

**WORK WITH A JEWELER YOU TRUST.**

Judging the quality of emerald requires expertise. Look at a jeweler with gemological credentials. A jeweler who knows and loves emerald will have several to show you so you can see different qualities side by side.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, GET A LAB REPORT.**

For a significant purchase, a report from an independent laboratory like GIA can confirm that the emerald you are buying is natural and will specify whether the extent of treatment is minor, moderate, or significant.

**AVOID ULTRASONIC CLEANERS AND CONSIDER A SETTING THAT PROTECTS THE GEM.**

While fillers do not harm emeralds, they can be removed or altered by ultrasonic cleaning, alcohol, and even jewelry repair. Emeralds are not your everyday ring stones. If you choose to set your emerald in a ring, consider a bezel setting or surround it with other accent gemstones to protect it from blows.

**EMERALD COLOR**

Color is the most important quality factor for emerald. The most desirable emerald colors are bluish green to pure green, with vivid color saturation and tone that is not too dark. The most-prized emeralds are highly transparent. Their color is evenly distributed, with no eye-visible color zoning.

**EMERALD CLARITY**

Emeralds typically contain inclusions that are visible to the unaided eye. Because of this, jewelry trade members and some consumers understand and accept the presence of inclusions in emeralds. Eye-clean natural emeralds are especially valuable because they are so rare. Most emeralds are treated with oil, resin, and/or polymers to reduce the appearance of inclusions and surface reaching breaks.

**EMERALD CARAT WEIGHT**

Fashioned emeralds come in a wide range of sizes. There are emeralds in museums and private collections that weigh hundreds of carats. At the other extreme are tiny emeralds that weigh fractions of a carat. Quality-for-quality, the price of emerald can rise dramatically as the size increases.

**EMERALD CUT**

The most popular cut is a square or rectangular step cut called the emerald cut. This cut maximizes the shape and weight of the natural emerald crystal. Well-cut stones maximize the beauty of the emerald’s color to create a bright, lively stone.

**FAQ**

**Q: DOES GIA GRADE EMERALDS?**

A: GIA does not grade emeralds. GIA Identification Reports assess the characteristics of an emerald (weight, measurements, shape, cutting style and color), state whether it is natural or synthetic, and disclose detectable treatments. GIA can also issue an opinion on geographic origin, when possible.

**Q: ARE EMERALDS FROM COLOMBIA WORTH MORE?**

A: While Colombia is considered the premier source for fine quality emeralds, every mine produces a wide range of quality. For gems of exceptional quality, an independent determination of origin from a respected laboratory like GIA adds to its provenance.

**Q: WHAT IS A “CREATED” EMERALD?**

A: Synthetic emeralds are generally marketed with the name of the company and the word “created” rather than synthetic. “Laboratory-grown,” “lab-created,” “[manufacturer’s name]-created” or “synthetic” are all permitted to describe man-made materials in the FTC Guides for the Jewelry Industry.

GIA exists to connect the people to understanding of gems. As a long-standing scientific authority, GIA is not only a unique source for gem knowledge, but grading reports inspire confidence wherever they appear.

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