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World Famous Diamonds

By Gem By Carati on October 11, 2013 in [blog](#), [The Business of Jewellery](#)



By Charlotte Furneaux

At Gem by Carati, we love diamonds. We love small glittering diamonds that dazzle on your ring, and we love giant diamonds that have sat around the necks of royalty and celebrities alike. If you are like us, then you'll love this look at our top 10 favorite famous diamonds.

10. The Koi Diamond – 32cts

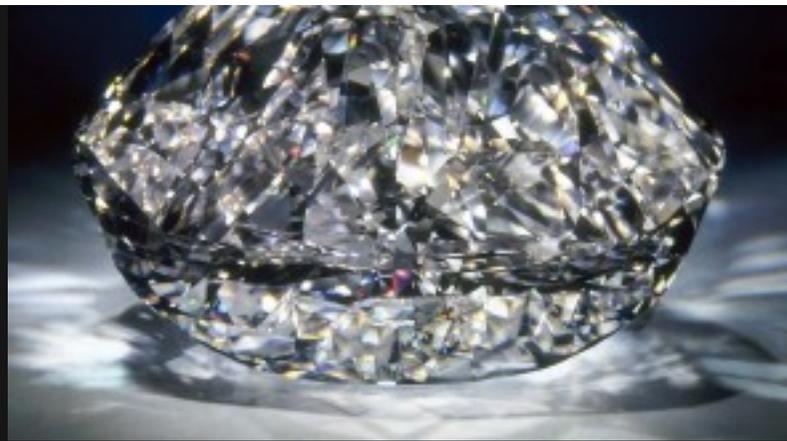


This uniquely coloured diamond was discovered in the early 2000s in the Congo. Originally, the rough weight of the diamond was over 60cts. It was cut in 2008 in Anvers, Belgium and revealed the appealing and unique inclusions inside the diamond. The layers of white, orange, light yellow, dark blue and black were reminiscent of ancient Chinese brush paintings of koi fish swimming in a river, hence the name, the koi diamond.

The Koi diamond is believed to be a lucky diamond that brings great prosperity.

9. The Centenary Diamond – 273.85cts





Owned and discovered by the De Beers group in 1986 in their premier mine. The original 599ct rough diamond was discovered using an x-ray imaging system, and all those involved in the discovery of the diamond were sworn to secrecy. It was determined that the diamond would be grade D colour and internally and externally flawless.

“We have recovered at the Premier Mine a diamond of 599 carats (120 g) which is perfect in colour – indeed it is one of the largest top-colour diamonds ever found. Naturally it will be called the Centenary Diamond.” – De Beers chairman Julian Oglivie Thompson

8. Graff Pink Diamond – 24.78cts



The early origins of the Graff Pink diamond are unclear. It was once owned by jeweller Harry Winston. The diamond was mounted in a platinum ring, flanked by two shield cut diamonds and is considered a “fancy intense pink” colour. It was sold by Sotheby’s auction house in Geneva in 2010. It was expected to reach the top ten list of most expensive diamonds in the world. In the end it was sold for \$46 million USD making it the most expensive single jewel ever sold at auction.

7. The Tiffany Diamond – 128.54cts



The Tiffany diamond is one of the largest yellow diamonds ever discovered. Its original rough weight was 287.42cts and was discovered in the Kimberly mine in South Africa in 1877. It was purchased by Charles Tiffany, and he returned with it to New York to have it cut. It was cut into a cushion shape with 90 facets to maximize the fire and brilliance of the diamond. The Tiffany diamond was recently reset into a stunning necklace of white diamonds, and has returned to its home in the flagship Tiffany’s store on 5th avenue in New York city.

6. Darya-ye Noor – 182cts



The Darya-ye Noor is a pale pink diamond mined from the Golconda mines in Andhra Pradesh, India. Its name means “River of Light” or “Stream of Light” in Persian. Its cut is referred to as Tabular or free-form. It was owned by the Mughal emperors but currently sits in the Central bank of Iran among the Treasury of National Jewels.

5. Moussaieff Red Diamond – 5.11cts





The Moussaieff red diamond is the largest known cut red diamond on Earth, rated a spectacular “Fancy red” by the GIA. Originally cut from a 13.9ct rough stone, the diamond is now a triangular brilliant cut (also known as a trillion cut). It was discovered in the 1990s by a Brazilian farmer in the Abaetzingo river and carried its first name, the Red Shield. It is currently owned by Shlomo Moussaieff of Moussaieff Jewellers Ltd.

4. Dresden Green Diamond – 41cts



The Dresden Green Diamond, also known as “Dresden Green”, is a natural green diamond. Its brilliant colour comes from natural exposure to radiation, and it is said to be internally flawless. It is believed to have originated in the Kollur mine in Andhra Pradesh in India. It is named after Dresden, the capital of Saxony, Germany where it has been on display for most of the last two centuries. Today, the diamond is shown in the “New Green Vault” at Dresden Castle.

3. Great Chrysanthemum Diamond – 104.15cts



The “Fancy Orange-Brown” diamond was discovered in South Africa and purchased by Julius Cohen as a 198.28ct rough diamond. He brought it back to New York to be cut, and had it cut into its distinctive brilliant pear shaped cut. Cohen believed the colour of the diamond had similarities to the brown chrysanthemum, and so it gained its name.

2. Hope Diamond – 45.52cts





Some consider the Hope Diamond the most famous diamond in the world. It originated from the Kollur mine in India, but the specifics of the original gem rough are unknown. Also known as “Le Bijou du Roi” (“the King’s Jewel”) it is the most visited museum object in the world and is housed in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. The Hope Diamond is considered to be cursed, and people believe it brings misfortune to those who own or wear the diamond. The colour is described as “fancy dark greyish-blue”, has a clarity rating of VS1 and is cut into a cushion antique brilliant shape. Some diamonds fluoresce under ultra-violet light, but the hope diamond glows a unique red color, and persists for several minutes afterward.

1. Cullinan Diamond – 3106.75cts



On January, 26th 1905, a miner at the Premier mine in South Africa found what he first thought was a piece of glass sticking out of the roof of the mine, roughly 20 meters below the surface. After climbing the wall, and digging out the glittering object he had a suspicion he was carrying a giant diamond. He turned the diamond over to the mine superintendent, Fredrick Wells and it

was soon confirmed that they had uncovered the largest diamond rough ever found. The Cullinan rough weighed 3106.75cts and is still the largest gem-quality rough ever unearthed. The Cullinan, named for the original owner of the mine, was then sent to England to be analyzed before it was to be cut. The King of England sent the diamond to the Asscher Diamond co. in Amsterdam to be cut by Joseph Asscher . On his first attempt, the steel rod he was using to cleave the diamond broke. On his second attempt with a stronger and heavier tool, the diamond cleaved perfectly and it is rumored that Joseph Asscher promptly fainted afterward.





This massive rough was cut into multiple diamonds, but the largest 9 are the most famous (Cullinan I-IX). Most of the diamonds reside in the British Crown Jewels.

Cullinan I – Also known as the “Star of Africa”, is a pear shaped 530.2ct diamond that today sits in the head of the Scepter with the Cross among the British Crown jewels.

Cullinan II – This rectangular cushion cut diamond weighing 317.4cts sits in the front of the Imperial State Crown. It can be used together with the Cullinan I as a brooch.

Cullinan III – A 94.4ct pear shaped diamond, hangs with the Cullinan IV in a brooch.

Cullinan IV- A 63.6ct square cushion cut diamond that hangs with the Cullinan III in a brooch.

Cullinan V – A 18.8ct heart shaped diamond that sits in the center of the brooch forming the center of the Delhi Durbar Parure.

Cullinan VI – A marquise cut weighing 11.5cts that sits on the necklace of the Delhi Durbar Parure.

Cullinan VII – Another marquise cut weighing 8.8cts and hangs from the Delhi Durbar brooch.

Cullinan VIII – A 6.8ct cushion cut diamond that sits in the center of the Delhi Durbar brooch.

Cullinan IX – a 4.4ct pear shaped diamond that is bezel set into a ring.

Well we hoped you liked our favorite famous diamond list, and if you have any questions regarding diamonds, please feel free to contact us via our contact page.