

PEARL



More Than a Trend

PEARLS

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Pearls are found in pearl-producing oysters caused by the entry of tiny foreign particles into their shell, which are then encased within naturally secreted layers of calcium carbonate that they produce. This eventually grows into a pearl.

In the last few decades, pearls have also been harvested, or cultured. The earth has largely two kinds of water: fresh water, that is used for consumption and farming, and sea water, that is alkaline in composition. With great care, pearls are harvested in both. It takes a year to three years in pristine water for gem quality pearl to form. Fresh water pearls are harvested in waters of China and Myanmar with the natural colours being white, peach and lavender. Sea water pearls are harvested in the oceanic waters of Australia, Philippines, Indonesia, Tahiti with the natural colours being white, golden and black.

Pearls are classified into the fine jewellery category, which also includes diamond, emerald, ruby and sapphire. Among all of them, pearl is the only gemstone formed and found within a living creature. Unlike other gemstones, pearls require no cutting or polishing before use and are simply stunning the way they naturally form. While diamond is flashed more often, the luxuriance of pearls has a high untapped potential. Given the various shapes and colours available in pearls, designers can find inspiration in exploring, combining, contrasting and intermixing pearls to create new expressions.

Pearls have been a symbol of elegance and class for centuries. The Maharajas of India and Queens of Europe have adorned themselves with pearl as a symbol of prestige, perfection and royalty. As for the 21st century and for millennials, imperfection is the new perfection! Beauty is to be seen in imperfection as well. Today, young people identify themselves with asymmetry that is common in the baroque-shaped pearl, for example. They are accepting of the flaws in the surface of the pearl to express themselves more naturally. However, there are ways to determine the value of pearls. Assessing the value of pearls takes real skill as it is considered a most complex gem. It is based on the five determiners as follows:



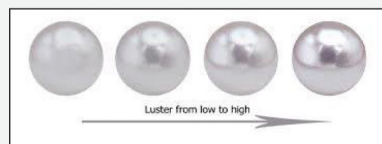
Shape – The more perfectly round a pearl is the rarer and more prized it is! Different types of pearl shapes are found, such as round, baroque, oval, button and pear.



Size – Large pearls are rare in nature; the bigger they are the more valuable they become! They can be 2 mm to 25 mm in size; the rarity increases with size.



Surface – Pearls that feature a clean surface without blemishes are highly valued.



Lustre – Lustre is the measure of reflection on the pearl's surface. The brighter the pearl the more invaluable it is. Lustre depends on the amount of time the pearl remains in the shell. The longer it remains the more lustrous it will be.



Colour – The stronger the colour the rarer and more valuable it will be.

More than just a trend

Pearls are always appropriate. Regardless of your age, pearls are timeless. Their versatility is seen from doing business at office to socialising at cocktail hour. Pearl continues to be recognised for its acceptance in every culture around the world, and there are different ways to embrace them, such as:

- Stackable pearls – String of pearls adorning your neckline, which always adds a gracious and classy look. Sometimes, adding multiple pearl strands – double strand, triple strand or clusters – to necklaces makes them more dynamic and exquisite.
- Solitaire pearls are a sophisticated way to add a touch of class to your elegant fingers. The minimal design means it will fit right in your jewellery collections, as well as look impeccable all on its own.
- Combination of Pearl and other Gems – It broke the internet when Ariana Grande, an American singer, posted a picture of her engagement ring with a combination of a three-carat diamond and a perfectly round-shaped pearl. The versatility of the shape and size of pearls, along with a variety of precious and semi-precious gemstones, makes the combinations endless.

Something for the men

There's historical evidence showing that men started wearing the lustrous pearl way back in time. Millennials and fashionistas have revolutionised old fashion rules that dictated specific jewellery for men even further. Yet the appearance of pearl has been a constant as men's jewellery and still feels fresh. The Wall Street Journal calls Harry Styles, English singer and actor, a 'populariser of the manly pearl necklace.'