

CHRYSOBERYL

Brecken Branstrator, GIA GG

The yellow-green variety of the gemstone is growing in demand, albeit from a small base, amid a market looking for bold colors and creating interesting pairings with colored stones.

Chrysoberyl, a beryllium aluminum oxide, is colorless in its purest form, but with the presence of trace amounts of iron, the mineral is colored yellow, brown, and green. Deposits of chrysoberyl have been found in Brazil, Myanmar, Russia, the U.S., Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zambia, and Madagascar, to name a few.

Of course, chrysoberyl is perhaps best known for its phenomenal varieties—cat’s eye and alexandrite—but it is most often seen as greenish-yellow crystals. Chrysoberyl gems were popular in 18th and 19th century Portuguese and Spanish jewelry and in Victorian England, according to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, but they haven’t been very widely used in modern jewelry. However, these days, the non-phenomenal transparent material is seeing increased interest, with more designs popping up on show floors and Instagram posts featuring the brightest hues of the gem.

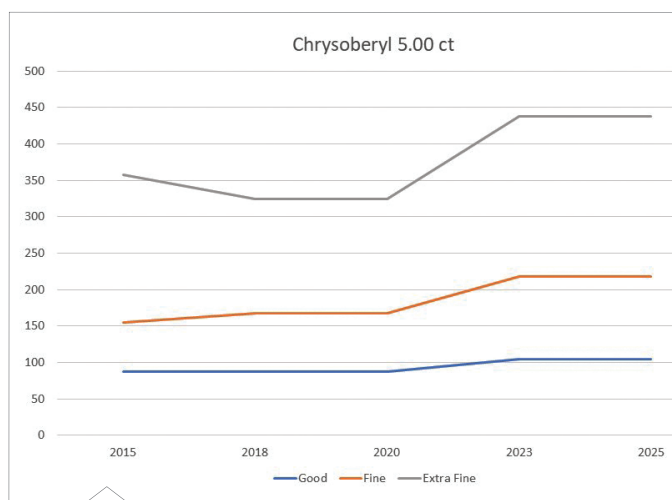


A 2.33-carat round chrysoberyl. (Image courtesy of Kimberly Collins Gems)

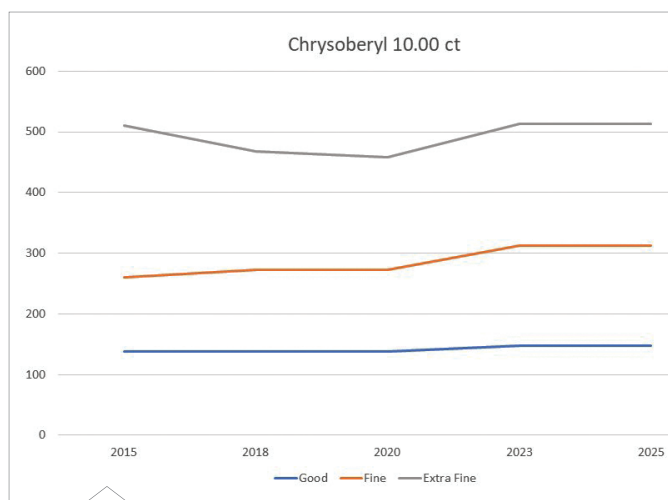
According to wholesaler Kimberly Collins, the gem is attracting more attention, particularly in the brighter tones. “It seems to be pretty popular. I believe it’s because they complement with colors like pinks and purples,” she told *GemGuide*. “It’s vibrant, bright, and beautiful. And durable enough for every day.”

What’s more, the price of the yellow-green material has stayed relatively affordable and stable in price, with the exception being a slight drop in price in the extra fine goods from 2018-2020. Other than that, as the historic charts from Gemworld price data below show, the material has only seen a slight increase, mostly in the extra fine category, and remains a well-priced option at all levels.

With a Mohs hardness of 8.5 and vibrant color, the stone is well positioned for a market that is having fun playing with big, bold color combinations in gem-heavy jewels. ♦



Yellow/green chrysoberyl pricing has remained relatively stable over the past two decades, seeing a slight decrease more recently followed by an uptick. (Graphic credit: Gemworld International)



The price changes in yellow/green chrysoberyl of late has mostly been in the extra fine categories. (Graphic credit: Gemworld International)

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