

# Garnet

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The Tucson 2015 Gem Show demonstrated that there are considerably more options than just the big three (ruby, sapphire and emerald) for buyers seeking fine quality gemstones. The availability of bigger and higher quality garnets in a range of colors, including color-change was notable. Gem professionals know only too well that, although red garnets are common, it is no easy task to locate a fine quality rhodolite or spessartine of 10cts or larger. Dealers with fine red garnets in these sizes reported that the issue isn't with demand; it is with trying to replace the stone after it's sold. Similarly, in the



*Figure 1.*  
*Tsavorite garnet*  
*6.00cts.* Courtesy  
of Mayer & Watt,  
photo by Geoffrey  
Watt.

## Rhodolite 3 carats

	Commercial	Good	Fine	Extra Fine
2005	4-18	18-35	35-50	50-60
2010	4-18	18-35	35-60	60-70
2015	4-22	30-50	60-95	120-140

## Tsavorite 3 carats

	Commercial	Good	Fine	Extra Fine
2005	225 & up	675-1,000	1,000-1,300	1,300-2,000
2010	240 & up	800-1,400	1,400-1,900	1,900-2,850
2015	240-450	1,150-1,725	2,000-2,400	3,000-3,500

Note. Current price tables have 10 categories but for representation here, categories are combined to show only the four main quality grades.

orange category, fine grade mandarin garnets are also once again achieving greater popularity, and prices are responding in kind. Saturated yellow hessonites are always sought after. Rarer green garnets such as demantoid and tsavorite have enjoyed near steady demand. Likewise, the lighter green grossular garnets, marketed as mint garnet, are enjoying a solid interest from consumers. And of all the garnets, perhaps the most unusual are the color-change ones. This rare member of pyrope-spessartine-almandine series garnet is appreciated by the collectors and the enthusiasts no longer merely as an affordable alternative to alexandrite, but now on

their own merit. The per carat price, one of the highest for any garnet, is proof enough of that.

The garnet group gemstones are simply beautiful due to their complex and intriguing mineralogical structure. Although prices have increased during the past few years in response to increasing global demand, most garnet varieties are still bargains relatively speaking. Of the identified garnet species, less than 10 are considered to be gem garnets. Their use in adornment traces back thousands of years; it seems garnets will remain popular due to their availability and affordability compared to rarer colored stones. ♦

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