



Aquamarine

Birthstone Month: **March**

Anniversary: **19th**

Season/Zodiac: **Scorpio**

Interesting Facts/History

Aquamarine is the blue variety of the gem species beryl, and is the sister of Emerald. The lovely blue aquamarine has long symbolized the sea, and is believed to protect voyagers during their sea travels. This gem also symbolizes youthfulness, the spirit of hope, good health, fidelity and lasting love.

Name Derivation

The literal translation for Aquamarine is "sea-water" and hence its long association with the symbolism of the sea.

Varieties, Value and Colour Symbolism

The most valuable Aquamarine is medium in tone, the most vivid possible, and Blue to slightly greenish Blue in hue. Many people desire the lighter, more pastel Aquamarines which are more available, and therefore, modestly priced. Though often confused in colour with the more abundant, and less expensive blue Topaz, Aquamarine remains prized among gem enthusiasts. Pastel blue colours symbolize nature including the sea and sky. Blue is soothing to the eye, and therefore represents the cool, conservative colours.

Where the Gem is Mined

Aquamarine is found mainly in Brazil, and also Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

Durability

Hardness (*resistance to scratching*) = 7 1/2 - 8 on the Moh's scale.

Toughness (*resistance to breaking, chipping, cracking*) = Good.

Stability (*to heat, light, chemicals*) = Generally stable to heat unless the gem has internal inclusions. Keep away from hydrofluoric acid.

Care and Cleaning

Ultrasonic = Usually safe.

Steam Cleaning = Avoid if the gem is included.

Repair Recommendations = The direct heat from a jeweler's torch should be avoided particularly if the gem has internal inclusions.

Enhancements

Aquamarine is routinely subjected to heat as a normal part of the processing phase. The colour is stable and requires no special care.

Fashion Significance

The soothing, yet stimulating pastel blue hues of Aquamarine have always been sought after. Fine quality Aquamarine is rare and valuable. Since the colour blue is universally favoured, it remains a versatile fashion statement for any sophisticated woman who can appreciate the rarity of this spectacular blue gemstone.