

# What does *Red* means to you?

Many Chinese people believe that Red colour is an auspicious colour as it symbolizes prosperity, good fortune, a new beginning, end of winter (start of spring). During special occasions, you'll see the Chinese adorn red cheong sams, red clothing, etc. It's also a tradition to hang a red cloth over the doorway of your house to welcome all the good things and to ward off evil.

“ In our modern Singapore pop culture, red symbolizes love, passion and even sex appeal. ”

Here are some red gemstones that you could look out for the Chinese New Year!



## *Ruby* (July Birthstone)

Yes, ruby is a very famous red gemstone. It comes from the corundum family. The other gem from this family is sapphire which is any other color other than red.

Rubies in the last 3 years have become rarer and rarer. The reason is that many mines that were producing them in the early days have been almost depleted. Places like Mogok, Mong Hsu in Myanmar or even Thailand are either producing much less or nothing at all.

Though the supply of gem quality rubies have diminished tremendously over the past 3 years, the demand has been ever increasing as the Chinese mainland people started to understand ruby and they have begun to collect them.

## *Rubelite* (pinkish Red Tourmaline)

Rubelite is a variety of tourmaline which is pinkish red in colour. Of course, the best is the color which is as red as possible! Rubelite is an important gem stone because

1. Size - It is still very possible to get a rubelite above 20 carats! Average sizes of a rubelite are around 1- 8 carats.
2. Colour - Good quality rubelites look almost red. Could pass off as a ruby to the untrained eye!

3. Clarity - There is a good quantity of rubelites that are relatively good clarity (stones with no major inclusions visible to the unaided eye).

4. Price - Though the prices of good quality rubelites have gone up the last few years, it's still not as costly to own one as compared to a good quality ruby or spinel. Making it attractive for people to adorn one.



### *Spinel*

Due to the increasing prices of rubies, red spinels are now another alternative to using a ruby. Top red spinels look as red or even redder than rubies! A famous spinel is the "Black Prince's Ruby (actually a spinel)" on the Imperial State Crown of the crown jewels.

Red spinel comes from Myanmar, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Tajikistan.

When looking for a red spinel, one must look for the purest red possible as red spinel tend to have a secondary pinkish or brownish colour.

### *Garnet (January Birthstone)*

Pyrope garnet (also known as rhodolite garnet) is another kind of red gemstone you can find.

To find a garnet with a vivid red colour and with nice cut proportions is rare. Garnets lose a lot of their beauty to improper cutting. They have a relatively high R.I which make them sparkle very well (high R.I than ruby, tourmaline, spinel).

Garnets can be easily found in the 5 carats and up size range. Colour ranges from dark red to purplish red.

Fascinatingly, there are little known treatments for garnets!

That brings us to the end of this issue about red gemstones. Wishing you a happy chinese new year, may this year be filled with beautiful red gemstones in your safe box! - TKM

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