

Rachminov Diamonds 1891

What Makes a Diamond Red?

Red diamonds are so rare that there is little gemological information about them. What is known is that crystal lattice defects showing stress lamination during the diamond's formation are the main cause of the red color. While there are some diamonds known as “purplish red”, or red with other color modifiers, a pure red diamond is seldom seen. If you are lucky enough to see a red diamond, you will notice that it does not resemble a ruby, garnet or other red gemstone in color. The coloring of a red diamond is somewhat sweeter. In some cases, diamonds that appear red to the eye are actually fancy deep or dark pinks.

Although the difference between a moderately dark red, a moderately deep pink and a red diamond is at times subtle, the stone and color saturation that results in the face-up appearance associated with a red is seldom seen. Every fancy color diamond, apart from red, has the prefix “intense” or “vivid” in their color grading scale. Red diamonds, though, are never noted as being “intense” or “vivid” because gemological laboratories consider the red color itself as “intense” or “vivid”.

The rarity of the gems is reflected in their price. True red diamonds fetch prices of more than seven figures per carat.



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