

AMGAD

natural fancy color diamonds



THE NATURAL GREEN DIAMOND: *A rare treasure*

For centuries, the origins of the green diamond, one of nature's rarest gemstones has been shrouded in mystery. Due to the extreme lack of pure greens in the marketplace, they have yet to make their way into mainstream fashion. Perhaps it is because most diamonds that do receive a grading of *green* are quickly bought up and hidden away by high-end dealers, collectors and connoisseurs, anticipating that as the demand for fancy colored diamonds begins to increase, the value of these precious gems will as well. Are green diamonds really all that uncommon? Or has there just been very little demand for them? According to Stephen C. Hofer, author of *Collecting and Classifying Colored Diamonds*, "Natural green diamonds are rare and old and are simply created by a set of unique geological factors." Hofer only sees about 10 per year, although there may be 20 a year on the market. Whatever the numbers of greens available, they are often harder to get a hold of than a brand new Lamborghini.

Color Grades:

Most green diamonds are on the fainter side of the fancy spectrum. Therefore, the most desirable color grades are fancy, fancy intense and fancy vivid green. Fancy vivid is the most desirable color grade and can sell for two or three times that of a fancy intense. A fancy deep or fancy dark green may lose its luster, resembling an emerald and are often thought of as inferior. They are often cheaper than their more vibrant colored cousins. The two most common secondary colors found in a green diamond are yellow and blue. A bluish green often resembles the color of the Caribbean Ocean. *Yellow greens* usually are one of the least expensive green, next to *green-yellows*, which contain slightly less than 50% green saturation.

Grading Green Diamonds:

Some colored diamond dealers contend that green diamonds are harder to grade than other colored diamonds. Many gem dealers make the same argument about grading other green colored gems. Most comparably graded fancies will look relatively similar when placed side by side. This is not true with green diamonds. You can have two fancy intense green diamonds and they will both look slightly different in color. This is why each green diamond is priced individually. If possible, the ideal shape for enhancing the natural green color is radiant. They also must be observed 'upside down' to see if the body color is truly green.



Fancy intense Yellowish Green Diamond

The green color in natural diamonds is caused by the natural radiation of the Earth, probably uranium ore, while the Earth was forming. This makes it difficult for laboratories to differentiate between natural and treated, because treated diamonds obtain their color through laboratory radiation techniques. Hofer explains, "Mother nature colors green diamonds with low doses of radiation over long periods of time and man uses high doses of radiation over short periods of time. It was easy to detect the treated greens prior to the 1960s. They were all zapped with a mossy-like green color. Now, radiation treaters have refined their technology and the dollars are so significant, unscrupulous treaters can effectively mimic natural green diamonds."

Prices:

Despite the low demand, natural green diamonds remain strong in price. Because these stones are so rare and are in 'strong hands', downside price action is limited. There are few public sales. It is hard to track prices, but they are probably rising. A carat sized fancy green can wholesale for \$60,000-\$125,000 per carat. A carat size fancy intense green starts at \$125,000 per carat. In 1999, a .90 carat fancy vivid green, VS clarity sold for over \$730,000 per carat at auction.

Summary:

Consider yourself fortunate if you have the opportunity to view a natural green diamond in person. As a precaution, it is best to only consider green diamonds with official GIA certificated deeming them "Natural." Otherwise, you may be fooled into purchasing a less valuable treated good. To those lucky enough to own a natural green diamond — enjoy.