

Pearls are, I feel, often thought of as just white, but in reality they are found in the entire colour spectrum. So, to celebrate this beautiful gem on its birthstone month I am taking a look at the kaleidoscope of colour to be found in pearls.

The Kaleidoscope of Pearls

by Sally Thornton

Things to know about Pearls

The range of pearls now available is more diverse than ever with lots of lovely natural colours and beautiful random shapes to choose from. These unique gems provide a wealth of inspiration for our jewellery designers.

Tahitian pearls were introduced to the jewellery market as late as the 1970's and are one of the newer types of cultured pearl. The oysters that grow these wonderful dark pearls farmed in French Polynesia are huge and nearly a foot across. Enticingly beautiful; we have just had in a lovely pair of silver grey Tahitian stud earrings.

Today, pearls are farmed all over the world, with new pearl farms in Fiji, U.A.E and the Caribbean. One recent emerging pearl farm in Baja California produces the Perlas del Mar de Cortez, a particularly beautiful black pearl from a rainbow lipped oyster. The harvest of this exceptional oyster is very limited to one or two matched pearl necklaces produced each year.

We tend to associate pearls being worn at weddings and Jersey Pearl have their new Amberley collection which is perfect for the big day. These pretty designs featuring white topaz, fresh water pearl with silver and are so wearable they don't have to be used just for weddings!

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Mixed colour freshwater pearl bracelet from £80



Silver seed pearl & marcasite floral ring £82



9ct Rose gold freshwater pearl ring £250



Classic peacock grey freshwater pearl necklace from £95



Amberley collection freshwater pearl set with white topaz Pendant £65 Earrings & £75



Silver grey Tahitian pearl studs on white gold £705



White shell pearl necklace £69 earrings £59

9ct white gold freshwater pearl & diamond pendant £84 earrings £140

9ct white gold diamond a pearl drop earring £195

Perhaps the most famous natural pearl called La Pelegrina, was worn by several Queens including Mary I before Richard Burton gave this beautiful pearl drop to Elizabeth Taylor.



White shell pearl bracelet £119

So thinking about weddings I'm just wondering what jewellery Meghan Markle will wear. Will she follow the trend set by the Duchess of Cambridge who is often seen wearing a mix of fashion jewellery as well as priceless pieces that she borrows from the queen's jewellery box, including Bahrain pearl drop earrings?

We can't talk about pearls without mentioning Coco Chanel who was so seduced by the beauty of pearls that she wore them in every circumstance, only taking them off when she went to sleep!



Pearls are also a favourite of the designers Dower and Hall and this season they have introduced the Luna collection with a very contemporary feel using a subtle hammered design finish. The pearls are available in white, dove grey and peacock grey tones in settings of rose or yellow vermeil.

Luna collection gold vermeil white Baroque pearl necklace £198 & oval freshwater pearl earrings £98

We have teamed up with Jersey Pearl for a special pearl offer running for the month of June, so see back cover for details.



Akoya pearl pendant with 9ct white gold & diamonds £470

Emma Kate peacock freshwater pearl pendant £80 & ring £60

Our jewellery designers are very versatile and accommodating to the demands of today's lifestyle offering a mix of coloured pearls. We feature Emma Kate Francis peacock grey freshwater pearl designs set in silver and a classic grey necklace.



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