

This month I return to colour kaleidoscope to look again at the blues, but this time focusing on the most wearable darker shades.

Singing the Blues

by Sally Thornton

Things to know about the darker shades of blue

- Blue gemstones complement diamonds perfectly, especially when set against white metal so this gem combination continues to be a popular classic. The Duchess of Cambridge wears a stunning a deep blue Ceylon sapphire engagement ring set in white gold which belonged to Princess Diana.



18ct 3 Stone Sapphire & Diamond Ring £1,095

18ct Sapphire & Diamond Cluster Ring £1,695



- We have been using a gem stone supplier in London's jewellery quarter for as long as I can remember and they consistently produce beautiful gemstone jewellery. We feature two classically designed rings, both of which are set with a fine blue sapphire.



Pear shape London blue with diamond surround pendant & chain £258 and earrings £210

London blue cushion topaz and diamond set pendant £238 chain £125

- Earlier this year, I talked about the lighter shade of blues including the gemstone, topaz. This gem's beautiful colours can be found with various hues from sky blue, electric "Swiss" blue to the darker inky "London blue". I particularly like the chequer board faceted cut of this "London Blue" cushion pendant.



Second hand 18ct white gold sapphire & diamond cluster ring £1,950

- We are always on the lookout for pre owned pieces to add to our collection. This fabulous 'Deco' inspired ring's centre piece is a lovely blue sapphire which is highlighted with baguette and round diamonds all set in 18ct white gold. I am sure this ring will soon find a new home as sapphire is the birthstone for September.

- Another gemstone treasured for its striking opaque blue body with flecks of golden coloured iron pyrites is the exquisite lapis lazuli. It is a relatively soft stone and has been used to make jewellery and precious objects since the earliest of civilisations. In ancient times, however, lapis lazuli was mistakenly referred to as sapphire, the name by which it still goes in some biblical texts.



Lapis Lazuli silver rings £80 & £45 note the pyrite flecks.

- In early jewellery, lapis was cut into cameos and used as seal stones. The Victorians would use lapis beads and drops in fringe necklaces, whereas in the Art Deco period lapis lazuli was cut into geometric shapes and used in brooches and bracelets.

Lapis Lazuli silver pendant with chain £78 & mini pebble stud earrings £45



Steel cufflink set with lapis lazuli, mother of pearl and onyx £29

Sterling silver enamel T-bar cufflinks from £125



Lapis Lazuli silver toggle bracelet £80

- Today, lapis lazuli feature in current designs and are made in silver as well as gold. British designer Kit Heath has created an interesting jewellery collection. Inspired by the coast, he has used the simple smooth shape of lapis lazuli which work beautifully set in silver.



9ct white gold sapphire and diamond ring with millgrain edge £395

- Cufflinks are now an important accessory to be suited and booted! They don't have to be plain, indeed those set with lapis, blue CZ or enamel all look very smart with a plain shirt.



18ct Yellow gold diamond & sapphire twirl ring £1,550

The ancient Persians are said to have believed that the earth rested on a huge sapphire, so its reflection coloured the sky.

- Other interesting dark blue gemstones to look out for are iolite once known as 'water sapphire', sodalite often confused with lapis or indicolite a blue variety of tourmaline, often passed off as a sapphire.



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