

GEMFIELDS



Ruby Month: the fire within

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This July, for which ruby is the birthstone, Gemfields is seeing red. Rubies are often regarded as powerful symbols of passion and vitality, with their blazing scarlet hue evoking feelings of hot-headed love and burning desire.

Describing colour in gemstones is a little like describing the ephemeral. We can feel it, see its effects, and experience its intensity, yet the moment we try to define it precisely, language begins to fall short.

Our eyes can distinguish millions of colour variations, far more than our vocabulary can comfortably name. In emeralds and rubies, especially, what we casually call “red” or “green” is rarely just that. A ruby may show flashes of pinkish-red, orangey-red, or purplish-red depending on the light. An emerald might lean bluish-green in one moment and reveal a warmer, slightly yellowish tone in another. The human eye perceives nuances instantly, whilst words struggle to keep up.



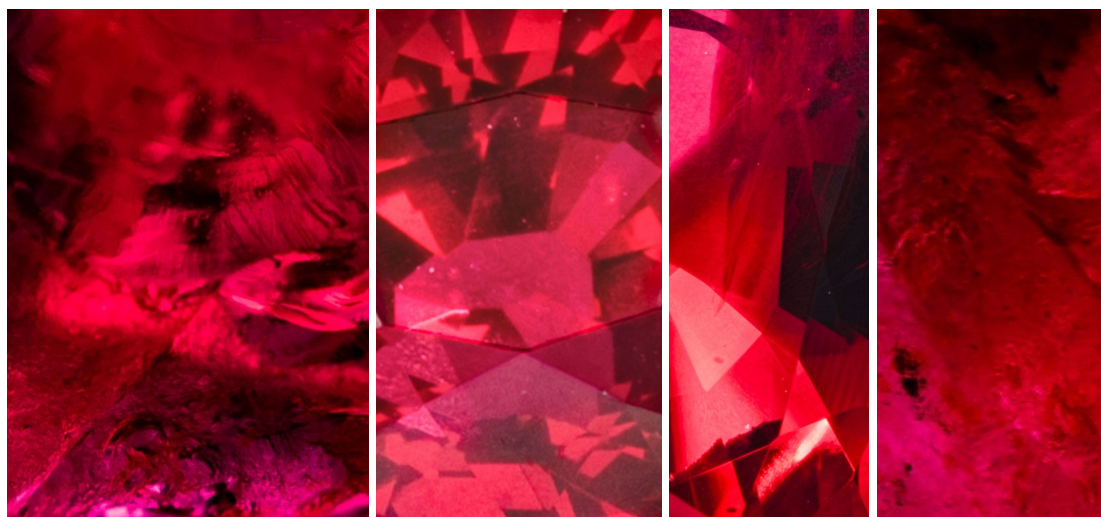
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Gemmology attempts to bridge this gap by breaking colour down into components: hue (the basic colour), tone (how light or dark it is), and saturation (how vivid or intense it appears). This structured language helps professionals communicate more clearly. Yet even then, colour remains subjective. Two people can look at the same gem and describe it differently because perception is influenced by lighting, environment, and even personal sensitivity to colour.

A ruby's red comes from trace elements of chromium, and how it interacts with surrounding oxygen ions, as this affects the rays of light that are absorbed or reflected within the crystal. Rubies from Mozambique display the full known spectrum of colour ranges, including the most vivid, red hue, and naturally fluoresce under UV light.



There is of course another dimension to colour in rubies, in that the gemstone possesses pleochroism – the ability to display different colours when turned at different angles due to selective absorption of light. It is the skill of the gemstone cutter to marry these colours together and form the most pleasing, vivid crimson. The beauty is, as ever, in the details, as subtle movements reveal flashes of orange, pink and purple, a dance which is referred to as the ‘fire within’, evoking a picture of glowing embers and the rawest of emotions.

This is why gemstones, and rubies in particular, are so fascinating: they resist rigid definition. Their beauty lies in subtle shifts, in the interplay between light and matter, in nuances that cannot be fully captured by simple words. The act of seeing outpaces speaking, and perhaps that mystery is part of what makes the colour in gemstones so powerful.



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ENQUIRIES

GEMFIELDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Gemfields

Gemfields is a world-leading miner of coloured gemstones. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Gemfields Group Limited, which is dual-listed on the Johannesburg and London AIM stock exchanges.

Gemfields is the operator and 75% owner of both Kagem Mining in Zambia (a world-leading emerald mine) and Montepuez Ruby Mining in Mozambique (situated on one of the most significant recently discovered ruby deposits in the world).

In addition, Gemfields holds controlling interests in various other gemstone mining and prospecting licenses in Zambia, Mozambique and Madagascar. The company is headquartered in London, with offices in Bangkok, Jaipur, Johannesburg and Mauritius.

Gemfields has developed a proprietary grading system and a pioneering auction platform to provide a consistent supply of coloured gemstones to downstream markets, a key component of Gemfields' business model that has played an important role in the growth of the global coloured gemstone sector.

Today, the company implements and invests in industry-leading policies, practices and

infrastructure across its operations; aligns with relevant industry standards to underpin its responsible approach; plays an active role in working groups to modernise the sector; and raises the profile of African gems through its global marketing efforts.

Gemfields funds projects to improve health, education and livelihoods for communities around its mines, supports local conservation partners and created the Gemfields Foundation, its charitable arm, which magnifies the scale of the work already carried out by Gemfields itself.

Gemfields values transparency, legitimacy and integrity, and believes that coloured gemstones should create a positive impact for the countries and communities from which they originate.

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