

Fine gemstones mesmerise at HK fair



Established coloured gemstone traders and jewellery houses from around the world impressed with their extensive selection of fine goods, which were presented at the third edition of the Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem & Pearl Show and the 33rd edition of the Hong Kong International Jewellery Show.

Tourmalines

Germany-based Vikar Ahmed offered what it described as its finest tourmaline collection, cut and polished by Idar-Oberstein's master craftsmen, at the Hong Kong fair. Its special stones weigh anywhere from 3 carats up to 100 carats, the company said. These tourmalines are "pure gem quality," the gemstone dealer said.

One of Vikar Ahmed's special items was a 70-carat bi-colour tourmaline from Nigeria that aptly represents the Pantone Colour of the Year – Rose Quartz and Serenity, it added. The company's client base consists of high-end jewellery retailers, collectors and high net worth individuals who have a passion for one-of-a-kind gems.

Tourmaline was also the star of the show at Neves Gems. The Brazilian gemstone dealer owns the Cruzeiro tourmaline mine, which it said produced some of the finest-quality rubellites in the world. Green and red tourmalines traditionally do well for Neves Gems, but demand for greens has dipped this year, noted Douglas Neves, president and director of the company. "Rubellite remains very attractive to Chinese buyers. We expect 5- to 10-carat stones to fare better than bigger stones of 30 to 100 carats that were our top sellers in previous years," he said.

Exclusive collection

Constantin Wild captured Nature's splendour in his selection of exclusive coloured gemstones. "These unusual, high-quality stones are an expression of everlasting beauty and are genuine collectors' items on account of their rarity," Wild said.

His treasure chest contains chrome tourmaline, which he described as "an extremely rare variety of the green tourmaline." "A fresh, radiant apple-green, for which it has the perfect interplay of traces of chromium and vanadium to thank for its extraordinarily beautiful colour, is the trademark of this precious rarity from Tanzania," Wild said.

From top: Chrome tourmaline (top), green sphene (centre right), red imperial topaz (centre left) and yellow sapphire (front) from Constantin Wild; bi-colour tourmaline from Vikar Ahmed; From left: Diego, Douglas and Antonio Neves of Neves Gems



Unique Brilliant's Denise Sjuman holds up a diamond ring with a 24.13-carat, no-heat padparadscha sapphire centre stone while Jonathan Sjuman displays a 100.07-carat alexandrite cat's eye from Sri Lanka

Green sphene is a sparkling miracle of colour from the sphene family. Also known as titanite, this gemstone iridesces in yellow and green when seen from different angles, he said. Its special colour and brilliance have been displayed to perfection by combining star- and step-cut facets.

Red imperial topaz is prized not only for its beauty but also its rarity. "It is not just the beguiling red and shocking pink, and the luxurious extravagance of the imperial topaz that set collectors' pulses racing: the mines in Brazil, home of this stone, have long been exhausted. No one knows how long specimens like this will still be available on the market," Wild said.

Another unique stone in his collection is the yellow sapphire, which he said is feted in India as a symbol of fertility and a valuable talisman for newlyweds. This is all the more true of Wild's top-class stone, which distinguishes itself by its unusual size and its natural pale yellow hue, the company said.

Pink and blue

Vivid Gems (HK) launched a wide array of fine-quality tanzanites, blue moonstones and spinels of various colours, among others. Company president Manoj Kala believes that blue stones will be in demand this year.

"Last year, red stones were quite popular – rubies and spinels moved well. These will continue to sell but I believe the market will clamour for more blue stones this year. I also expect greater demand for smaller and medium-sized stones of 8mm by 6mm to 12mm by 10mm as well as for calibrated goods. The US market has been asking for calibrated tanzanites and blue moonstones," he explained.

Tavares Gems of Brazil specialises in cat's eye stones such as chrysoberyl, tourmaline and aquamarine and also supplies an extensive range of quartzes. "Pink and blue stones should perform well this year," said the company's Osorio Tavares Filho.

At the fair, Tavares Gems highlighted cat's eye tourmaline in various colours. The gemstone dealer said he expects business to remain steady, with Hong Kong and China continuing to deliver for the company. "Demand for bigger stones may be sluggish this year. The fast-movers are likely to be smaller to medium-sized gemstones of around 10 carats," Filho added.

Red and green

Consumer demand for coloured gemstones will remain solid in 2016 despite a general slowdown in the global jewellery market, according to Hong Kong-based jeweller Unique Brilliant Ltd.

Citing the strong performance of rubies and jadeites in major jewellery auctions last year, the company said the demand for premium-quality green and red gemstones will continue to increase, driven mainly by jewellery collectors.

"We hope to expand our reach globally and raise more awareness about our products and our company," noted Unique Brilliant, which offered its latest high-end jewellery collections at the March Hong Kong Fair.

"We remain positive despite the current economic downturn. There will always be fluctuations in the global economy but we offer top-quality products, which is crucial to sustaining consumer interest."

Tsavorites and exceptional layouts took centre stage at Paul Wild during the fair.

The gemstone dealer showcased new productions of tsavorites from Merelani Hills, which it described as having "wonderful, luminous and electrifying colour." And to celebrate the Pantone Colours of the Year for 2016, namely Rose Quartz and Serenity, it has designed new layouts of rose quartz, morganite, chalcedony, aquamarine and other matching gemstones.

"Our biggest competitive advantage is our power to design beautiful sets of all kinds of gemstones, from mid-priced stones to top-quality goods. As we have our own mines and enjoy good relationships with other producers, we are able to use our extensive varieties of gemstones to create new layouts," the company said.

One of the world's leading gemstone cutters and traders, Paul Wild specialises in tourmalines, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, spinels, tsavorites, tanzanites, demantoids, opals, aquamarines, morganites and Paraiba tourmalines. It cuts exquisite, one-of-a-kind gemstones at its headquarters in Kirschweiler, near Idar-Oberstein, in Germany, and also manufactures large quantities of gemstones at its production facility in Thailand. **JNA**



Paul Wild OHG CEO Markus Paul Wild displays a necklace, earring and pendant layout of spinels from Tanzania weighing a total of 79.51 carats