

ROCKS & Co.™

THE CLEVER GEM BUYER



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and this is telling. In reality, Alexandrite is not dependent on the colours of the change. In candescent light, Alexandrite can appear blue-green, forest green, green, khaki, teal or yellowish-green, and combinations thereof, and brownish-red, orangey-red, red or reddish-purple, and combinations thereof, in incandescent light.

The single biggest value consideration of Alexandrite is its colour change. Any colour change gem is judged by the strength of its change, and how attractive and distinct its colour is in both candescent and incandescent light. Colour preference is subjective, so I am not going to dictate tastes, but the 'ideal' Alexandrite will display distinct medium toned intense colours in both light sources, with the pure daylight greens to night time reds valued highest. Alexandrite that displays a percentage colour change of less than 30 percent or visible greyish, yellowish or brownish tints will be priced accordingly. Nevertheless, Alexandrite with a pure

Zultanite

First collected and faceted by 'rock hounds' (mineral enthusiasts) in the late seventies, Zultanite is now mined commercially. A rare colour change variety of the mineral Diaspore coloured by manganese, Zultanite hails from a sole deposit, a remote mountain area in Anatolia, Turkey. Much like Alexandrite, Zultanite's name also has a royal connection, being named by Murat Akgin in honour of the 36 sultans who ruled the Ottoman Empire in Anatolia in the late 13th century. Noted for its attractive earthy hues, Zultanite's colour change is not limited to two basic colours, exhibiting a range of greens, purplish-reds and yellows in different light sources. Zultanite changes from kiwi greens with canary flashes under sunny skies, to rich champagnes in traditional indoor lighting and raspberry hues in candlelight. With up to 98 percent of the crystal lost during lapidary, Zultanite's very low yield is one of the reasons it is so rare, especially in sizes over 5 carats. The clarity standard for Zultanite is eye-clean (no visible inclusions when the gem is examined six inches from the naked eye). Similar to Alexandrite, Cat's Eye Zultanite is also available. Zultanite is a personal favourite and I wrote its page on the ICA (International Coloured Gemstone Association) website: www.gemstone.org.

