



PRETTY IN PINK

Rare, dazzling and close to priceless, the gemstones of the Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender represent Australia's natural beauty at its finest.

Of all the gemstones, none are more coveted than Argyle Pink Diamonds. With a colour spectrum ranging from romantic blush tones to intense reds, cornflower blues and regal violets, these diamonds are as pretty as they are rare. Although we don't know for certain what gives a pink diamond its colour – unlike other coloured diamonds, it isn't a mineral impurity – it's most likely that the distinctive hue is the result of a twist in the carbon lattice during formation.

Until the 1980s, gems of these tones were beyond rare, very occasionally occurring alongside their white (and brown) counterparts in mines across the world. The Argyle Diamond

Mine in Western Australia changed everything. What miners found in this remote corner of the East Kimberley was a bountiful, reliable deposit of pink diamonds, dazzling in their colour variety. During its life, the mine has produced about 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds, even though they account for less than 0.1 per cent of all Argyle's diamonds. Gather all of the pinks weighing more than half a carat that are mined over one year, and the figure shrinks further: they would easily fit in your palm.

It is this rarity that has led to the extraordinary value of Argyle Pink Diamonds, and the closure of the mine, scheduled for late 2020, will only see prices rise.

No ordinary diamond

Indeed, buying an Argyle Pink Diamond is not as easy as walking into a shop and simply purchasing one. Since 1984, the very finest specimens have been sold by tender, travelling from Perth to Hong Kong and New York to pique the interest of diamantaires the world over. It is said to be the most exclusive diamond sale in the world: prospective buyers must be invited to place a sealed bid. Once a diamond is sold, only Argyle and the successful bidder will know the price paid.

The 2019 Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender, which may well be the penultimate showcase, has been named 'The Quest for the Absolute', a testament to the exalted status of pink diamonds. This year's tender features 64 lots totalling 56.28 carats, including three spectacular – and highly prized – Fancy Red diamonds.

The standouts, the six 'hero' diamonds, are bestowed with names reflecting their beauty: Argyle Amari is a symbol of love, fashioned into a heart of 1.48 carats in Fancy Vivid Purplish Pink; the radiant-cut Argyle Enigma contains untold

depths within 1.75 carats of Fancy Red stone; Argyle Opus is a masterpiece of Fancy Intense Pink, and is one of only two diamonds in the 2019 tender weighing more than two carats.

True connoisseurs know you must see these diamonds in person to truly understand their beauty. No photograph can convey the sense of light that radiates from within, drawn out and magnified by Argyle's expert artisans through cutting and polishing. It is only when you peer into their facets that you can appreciate the improbability that brought them here, the end of a 1.6-billion-year-long journey through the Earth's surface.

Those fortunate enough to place a successful bid have bought more than a gemstone. Each certified Argyle Pink Diamond is an investment that has risen steadily by 10 to 15 per cent, year on year, and many are worth up to 50 times more than white diamonds of the same size. When the Argyle Diamond Mine finally closes its doors, those entrusted with its stunning, rare gems will also possess a piece of Australia's natural heritage. argylepinkdiamonds.com.au ♦

01 The 2019 Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender hero diamonds © Rio Tinto Diamonds