



## *[Blog Posts from the CTDiamondGuide.com website](http://CTDiamondGuide.com)*

### **The Crown Jewels Of Hollywood**

Elizabeth Taylor's Collection to be Auctioned Next Month

When I think of a woman who loved jewelry with a serious passion, Elizabeth Taylor comes to mind. The Hollywood icon passed away last March and now her jewelry collection will be auctioned off by Christies in New York next month.

Her jewels have been making a world tour as the auction house works to build interest in the sale. Currently, the collection is showing in Paris. When it comes to New York to be auctioned off, some of her clothing and accessories will also be included.

According to Christie's America, the collection is valued at \$30 million, but they are hoping for the sale to rack up much higher.

In a video from CBS news, Jonathan Rendell, the deputy chairman of the auction house says that Elizabeth was known for her love of pretty baubles. A few items which he refers to as "major jewels" that she wore every day include the diamond watch which was as gift from Michael Jackson valued at \$30,000-\$50,000, the 33 carat Elizabeth Taylor diamond ring, and the "La Peregrina" pearl necklace which was once part of the Spanish crown jewels.

Elizabeth Taylor was born in North London (I didn't know that did you?) and was married not once, but twice to Richard Burton who bought her many of her famous trinkets.

Expectations are that the proceeds from this sale could break records, perhaps even the 1987 sale of the Duchess of Windsor's jewels which topped out at \$50 million.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **What Looks Great with Red Carpet? Platinum Jewelry!**

Back in September, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Primetime Emmy Awards were celebrated with the usual pomp and ceremony. And this year, many of the top actresses walked the red carpet accessorized with stunning platinum jewelry. Here's a quick list to give you an idea of who wore what item by which designer. Enjoy!

- Drew Barrymore wore platinum and diamond earrings by Van Cleef & Arpels
- Kaley Cuoco also wore platinum and diamond studs, along with a platinum and diamond bracelet by Kwiat.
- Gwyneth Paltrow was adorned by platinum earrings with 7 carats of black and white diamonds, two platinum and diamond bracelets with 100 carats and a platinum and diamond ring with black onyx, all by Neil Lane.
- Minka Kelly sported platinum and diamond drop earrings and a couple of platinum rings by Tiffany & Co.
- Jayma Mays mixed things up with a platinum and diamond bow brooch in her hair, along with 10 carat platinum and diamond cluster earrings, and a platinum and diamond ring, all by Neil Lane.

Other platinum worthy designers of note included Chopard, Martin Katz, Bvlgari, and Fred Leighton.

Honestly now, who doesn't look good in platinum and diamonds?

\*\*\*\*

### **When Ugly is Award-Winning**

Just when you think it's safe and jewelry should be pretty, there's a contest that flies in the face of this expectation. Announcing The Ugly necklace Contest, 2012 going into its 9<sup>th</sup> International year.

All joking aside, this is a real contest sponsored by a company called The Land of Odds, which "provides bead and jewelry making artists with virtually all their beads, supplies, books and jewelry findings needs, with over 30,000 products."

Just to reinforce their obviously off-beat image, first prize is a \$992.93 shopping spree at LandofOdds.com and a runner up prize valued at \$399.07.

So, what denotes an ugly necklace? From the photos of previous entries, just about anything goes. One entry sported a variety of kitchen spices and condiments like Tabasco sauce and Emeril seasonings. Another featured entry included Barbie doll parts hanging from a length of strung beads. A third truly ugly necklace featured a crazed assortment of pendants, dangling from a few too many rows of beads.

When anything goes and contestants get creative, things sure can get ugly. Feel like you have got to see this nastiness for yourself? Thinking about entering? All is possible on this [web page](#) so stop on by soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Engagement Rings of the Rich and Famous**

Do you have a fondness for celebrity gossip and jewels? It sure is a hot combination for this gal reporter. Let's talk shall we?

Kim Kardashian loved her engagement ring so much, she put a clause in her prenup to purchase it in case the couple divorced. Now that she and 72 day hubby are splitsville, let's see if she antes up for that major \$20 million bauble.

Reese Witherspoon was given a rare diamond by her fiancé Jim Toth. This four carat Ashoka diamond by William Goldberg is a specialty cut for added brilliance and a larger appearance per carat weight than the emerald cut stone. At just \$250,000, seems like a veritable bargain.

Sports Illustrated swimsuit model, Molly Sims shows off her stunning, Lorraine Schwartz cushion cut diamond. Her husband Scott helped with the one-of-a-kind design which includes a halo of diamonds around the center stone's table.

Emerald cut is still very popular as many celebrities continue to choose this cut. Beyonce wears an 18 carat flawless emerald cut rock given to her by now husband Jay-Z valued at \$5 million and Kate Hudson wears a nine-carat stone from Matthew Bellamy worth \$200,000.

View the beauties (rings and women) for yourself [here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Liberace's Diamonds Auctioned by Mid Hudson Galleries**

Do you remember Liberace? A piano-playing showman, famous for outrageous costumes in his Las Vegas show, Liberace had a penchant for bigger than life jewels and flashy clothing. He had a world-renown, lengthy and sensational career, spanning four decades and was the highest paid entertainer between the 1950's – 1970's, earning as much as \$300,000 for an evening.

Known as Lee to his friends, he generously shared his possessions with his inner circle. One of his friends, James Myers, who died in 2005, left his Liberace treasures to his mom, Helen. Now in her 90's, Helen has decided to sell this amazing 425 piece cache which will be auctioned off by the Mid Hudson Galleries.

Eighty boxes arrived in New York from California, filled with custom-designed jewelry and diamonds, stage clothing, accessories, family photos, celebrity letters and even a few manuscripts written by Liberace himself. The lot also includes his collection of Christmas decorations. The outstanding element is the richly appointed, large-sized Nativity scene that is said to be museum quality.

Much of the 70 pieces of jewelry will be sold along with a photo of Liberace wearing the item which is a very nice twist for authenticity. The jewelry is mostly ostentatious, unique and highly memorable.

What may surprise many is his bejeweled collection of lavish crosses. Liberace was a devout Catholic and started collecting crosses after receiving a gift of a cross from Pope Pius XII in 1956. He also had many bow ties that were encrusted with rhinestones, crystals and faceted gems, just to give you an idea of the novel and eclectic nature of the pieces for sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The Ultra Rich Seek Top Quality Gems as Investments**

Whether you are super rich or an average Joe, finding decent investments for your savings is not an easy task today. With an incredibly volatile stock market, real estate at a lull, and gloomy economic world forecast, people are looking for ways to get a solid return. Some investors are being creative, looking for alternative assets. Top quality gems are becoming a new investment option for the super wealthy.

For example, Laurence Graff, a London-based jeweler just purchased a \$4 million diamond that was one of his own creations. He bought back the stone at a Christie's auction in Geneva, with the goal to resell the piece at a later date.

Considered the King of Diamonds, Graff easily recognized this 24.3 carat oval shaped diamond which is graded with 'D' color and is nearly flawless internally. According to the catalog, this ring was expected to bring between \$2.9-\$3.5 million, but Graff exceeded this pricing with his winning \$4 million bid.

Jean Marc Lunel, who heads Christie's Geneva jewelry department says middle range jewelry doesn't sell at all. However the truly exceptional and high quality items often sell significant above expected pricing. This is because private investors have their eyes open, looking for investment-grade jewelry.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Yellow Diamond Shatters Records for Size and Pricing**

What's the biggest diamond you ever saw in yellow? Well, think about this – a 110 carat stone called the "Sun-Drop Diamond" was sold on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Sotheby's auction in Geneva Switzerland. The gigantic yellow diamond broke records with a winning bid of \$12.4 million.

What makes a diamond yellow? [Nitrogen impurities](#) are trapped within the carbon while it hardens over millions of years. The result ranges from pale to vivid yellow, as in this amazingly beautiful and rare gem stone which was graded by gemologists at the highest yellow color quality.

This amazing gem is the largest pear-shaped yellow diamond the world has seen. It was just found last year (2010) South Africa and was cut and polished by New York's Cora International. This is yet another example of how the ultra rich are investing in exceptional and rare gems as other investments continue to underperform and remain volatile.