

COLLECTING ARGYLE

A finite piece of Australian diamond history.

For collectors around the world, Argyle diamonds represent something that cannot be recreated: diamonds recovered from a remarkable Western Australian deposit that is now permanently closed.

The Argyle Diamond Mine operated in Western Australia's East Kimberley for 37 years before mining ceased in November 2020. While the mine produced more than 865 million carats of rough diamonds during its lifetime, its celebrated pink diamonds represented less than 0.1% of annual production.

Today, collecting Argyle is about much more than simply owning a pink diamond. **Colour, provenance, documentation, size, cut, rarity and the individual history of a stone** can all form part of what makes one Argyle diamond different from another.

Whether you're discovering Argyle for the first time or developing an established collection, understanding those differences is part of the experience.

WHAT MAKES AN ARGYLE DIAMOND COLLECTABLE?

There isn't one single definition of the "best" Argyle diamond. Some collectors are drawn to intense colour. Others seek particular Argyle colour classifications, shapes, sizes or documented stones. Some focus specifically on Tender diamonds, while others appreciate smaller stones that demonstrate distinctive Argyle colour and provenance.

A collection can therefore be built in many different ways. What matters is understanding **exactly what you're acquiring and why that particular stone is significant to you.**

UNDERSTANDING ARGYLE COLOUR

Argyle developed its own proprietary colour classification system for its pink diamonds, separate from conventional laboratory colour grading.

Within the Argyle system, commonly encountered classifications include **P - Pink, PP - Purplish Pink, PR - Pink Rose and PC - Pink Champagne**. Numbers are used to indicate colour intensity, generally ranging from **1 (strongest) to 9 (lightest)** within relevant classifications.

This means two diamonds described simply as "pink" can present very differently. Hue, intensity and modifying colours all contribute to the individual appearance of an Argyle diamond - and certain combinations are considerably scarcer than others.

SIZE ISN'T EVERYTHING

With Argyle Pink Diamonds, carat weight tells only part of the story. A larger stone isn't automatically more significant than a smaller one.

A small diamond displaying an exceptional colour classification, strong provenance or unusual characteristics may hold considerably more interest to a particular collector than a larger stone with a less distinctive colour.

This is why Argyle diamonds should be considered individually rather than judged on carat weight alone.

PROVENANCE MATTERS

Not every natural pink diamond is an Argyle Pink Diamond. Natural pink diamonds have been recovered from other deposits around the world, so colour alone cannot establish that a stone originated from the Argyle mine.

For collectors, **documentation is therefore an important part of the story**. Depending on the individual diamond and its history, documentation may include Argyle-issued records, identification numbers, inscriptions, Tender documentation or reports from independent gemmological laboratories.

Understanding **what each document verifies - and what it does not verify** - is important when considering an Argyle diamond.

LASER INSCRIPTIONS

Some documented diamonds carry microscopic laser inscriptions on their girdles. These inscriptions can provide an identification reference that may help connect a diamond with its corresponding records.

However, an inscription should never be considered proof of everything about a diamond by itself. **A laser inscription can assist with identification, but the inscription alone does not determine a diamond's quality, value or origin**. The corresponding documentation remains important.

THE ARGYLE TENDER

At the very highest end of Argyle collecting sits the **Argyle Pink Diamonds Signature Tender(TM)**.

Beginning in 1984, the annual invitation-only Tender presented a tiny selection of some of the finest coloured diamonds recovered from the mine. Typically, only around **50-70 diamonds** were selected each year from Argyle's enormous production.

Across the Tender's 38-year history, the entire quantity offered amounted to only a little over **two champagne flutes in volume**. Tender provenance therefore represents a very specific chapter within the wider story of Argyle collecting.

The **38th and final Tender took place in 2021**, using diamonds recovered during the mine's final year of production.

BUILDING AN ARGYLE COLLECTION

There is no single way to build an Argyle collection. A collector might choose to focus on different Argyle colour classifications, a progression of colour intensities, different shapes or carat weights, pink and purplish pink diamonds, other coloured diamonds originating from Argyle, documented or

inscribed stones, Tender diamonds, or individual stones selected simply because of their beauty or personal significance.

For someone beginning their collection, the most important first step isn't necessarily finding the largest or rarest diamond. It's **understanding what you're buying**. Documentation, provenance, characteristics and condition should be considered alongside the appearance of the stone itself.

A FINITE SOURCE

The Argyle Diamond Mine ceased production on **3 November 2020**.

Unlike a currently operating diamond mine, there can be **no future production from the Argyle deposit**. Every genuine Argyle diamond in circulation today came from the finite quantity recovered while the mine was operating.

That does **not** mean every Argyle diamond is equal, nor does scarcity alone determine financial value. What it does mean is that the geological source itself is closed permanently.

For collectors, that places every genuine Argyle diamond within a completed chapter of Australian diamond history.

CHOOSING YOUR NEXT ARGYLE

At **Bijoux Philip Jewellery**, we believe collecting Argyle begins with understanding the stone.

Whether you're searching for your first Argyle Pink Diamond, adding a particular colour classification to an existing collection, seeking Tender provenance or looking for a diamond with specific characteristics, we can help you explore suitable options.

Not every diamond available to us will necessarily appear online. If you're looking for a particular **colour, size, shape, classification or documented Argyle diamond**, you're welcome to speak with us directly.

PRIVATE ARGYLE CONSULTATIONS

For clients who would prefer to discuss their collection personally, **private consultations are available across the Gold Coast and Brisbane by appointment**.

Interstate and international clients are also welcome, with remote consultations available for those unable to attend in person.

Whether you're beginning your collection or searching for something particularly difficult to find, we'd be pleased to hear what you're looking for.