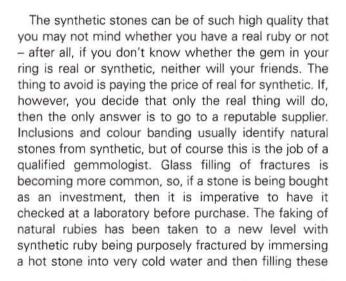


Star Ruby. (Photo: RH)





Madagascan Ruby, 1.88 ct. (Photo: ATG/LAB)

fractures with glass, therefore giving the impression that the stones are natural. The glass filling of rubies has now reached dangerous proportions, with very many in the market. They can easily deceive, being extremely difficult to identify for the layperson. Extreme care is therefore needed when purchasing – only buy from a reliable source.

Other red-coloured natural gems are sometimes confused with ruby, such as spinels and red garnets, though both of these are singly refractive and not doubly refractive as is ruby.

Ruby has been misidentified for hundreds of years. The 170-ct Black Prince's 'ruby' originally set in the helmet of King Henry V and worn at the battle of Agincourt is, in fact, a spinel; it is now set in the Imperial State Crown.



Colour range of Greenland rubies, 0.22-0.77 ct. (Photo: TNG)