

KUNZITE

"Color Fading Gemstone"&"Colorless" in Day "Pink" in Night



Kunzite is the best-known variety of the mineral spodumene. It's named after famed gemologist "George Frederick Kunz", who was the first to identify it as a unique variety of spodumene. Kunzite gets its color from trace amounts of manganese (Mn),spodumene is a member of the pyroxene mineral family. California's San Diego County is an important source of kunzite.Kunzite is also found in the pegmatites of Madagascar, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Brazil associated with lepidolite, tourmaline, and morganite (pink beryl).

Kunzite is the pink to violet variety of the silicate, Spodumene, with a chemical formula of $\text{LiAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$. Belongs to monoclinic Crystal System. Exists in a variety of colours ;white, gray, green or yellowish green, blue, violet to amethystine. It has a glassy transparency, and forms in flattened prismatic crystals with vertical striations. It is highly pleochroic, shifting from pale pink to light violet and even colorless, depending on the angle of observation, and though its perfect cleavage makes cutting difficult, it can be faceted into beautiful gems. Its hardness: 6.5-7, refractive Index: 1.66-1.68 and specific gravity :3.1-3.2. Kunzite can occur in very large crystals, suitable to cut gems of several hundred carats. The colors of Kunzite will fade away to colorless on prolonged intense exposure to sunlight. The color can be resorted on exposure to radiation which turns the crystal green.

Kunzite is a beautiful crystal, pure in energy and joyful in nature. In palest pink to light violet hues, it is a Stone of Emotion, opening and connecting the heart to the mind and stimulating a healing communion between the two. This stone with fine, subtle pink is not only an ultimate valuable stone, especially for lovers.

References: Textbook of Gemstone, GII, www.nevada-outback-gems.com, www.Geology.com