JEWELLERY DIARY / KNOW YOUR JEWELS

Candy Crush: Why Designers Love Cabochon Gemstones

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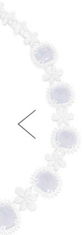
The juicy and saturated cabochon is the gem cut du jour, with designers embracing this rounded shape in many of their most colourful and flamboyant creations. We spoke to friends of KaterinaPerez.com, including celebrated designers and gemstone dealers, to discover why they love working with this shaped and polished stone type.

Coloured gemstones are the eye candy of the jewellery world, captivating us with their vibrant hues and powerful energies. One of the shapes that best showcases natural gems is the cabochon, known for its smooth, rounded surfaces with a flat back and a domed top. Unlike faceted gems that enhance light reflection, cabochons highlight the stone's natural colours, internal textures and inclusions, making them ideal for opaque or semi-translucent stones such as opals, turquoises, and moonstones. This shape also increases the durability of softer stones, reducing the risk of chipping or breaking and allowing for the creation of stunning, robust jewellery pieces.

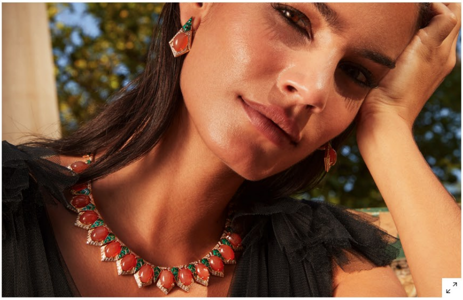


1 of 5 • *Veschetti Tappeto bracelet with 39.39 - carats of carved Zambian emeralds, 2.79 - carats of cabochon cut emeralds, 5.21 - carats of cabochon cut sapphires and brilliant cut diamonds in 18k gold and white gold*

The cabochon cut has a rich history dating back thousands of years, originating in ancient civilisations like Egypt and Mesopotamia. Without access to modern cutting and faceting tools, the cabochon was a simpler shape to achieve and could enhance a stone's beauty using basic tools. Even today, with so much technology at our disposal, the cabochon is a well-used gem shape and a common ingredient in both fine and high jewellery. So, what makes this mineral form so special? Keep reading to discover the insights of experts in their fields...

Doris Hangartner 24.32 - carat Mandarin Garnet

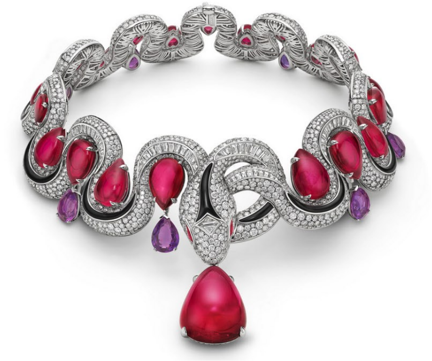
> *"I love cabochons for their stunning streamlined forms and smooth curves - they have a more organic and natural aesthetic. This allows the colour and other unique characteristics of these gemstones to take centre stage, giving an expansive view of the stone's natural features," Mohammed Al Zain, Director, Head of Design and Gemmologist at Al Zain Jewellery.*



1 of 2 · *Model wearing Al Zain Zara necklace with 10 - carats of peach moonstone, 18 - carats of malachite and 6 - carats of diamonds in 18k gold Al Za*

Lucia Silvestri, Jewellery Creative Director, Bvlgari

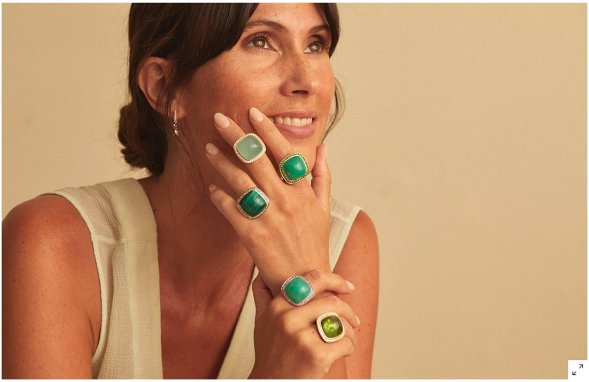
"I must say that the cabochon is by far my favourite cut. Above all, I love the feeling it gives me when I touch it, this sense of softness has a relaxing effect on me and immediately calms me. At the same time, in the gentle smoothness of its surface, I find a feeling of sensuality. I believe its alluring shape is capable of infusing harmony and magnetism into a design. Along with this comes the enchantment of unleashing the full potential of colour, enhancing its brilliance and intensity, as well as the extraordinary inclusions that make the gems unique and rare."



Bvlgari Serpenti necklace with onyx, a 77.78 - carat cabochon pear rubellite, 193.69 - carats of cabochon pear rubellites, 38.77 ct of amethyst, rubellites, diamonds and pavé-set diamonds in white gold

Charlotte Grierson, Founder and Designer, Charlotte Reedtz Jewellery

"I have always loved cabochons, ever since I first set eyes on a sugarloaf cut emerald. They beautifully showcase any unique inclusions, such as golden rutile in quartz, or colour variations in bi-coloured stones. Additionally, cabochons have a smooth, calming effect and a soft, reassuring touch. As a creator of spiritual jewellery, this is important to me, providing a sense of internal peace every time you look at or touch your jewellery."



Model wearing a selection of Charlotte Reedtz Jewellery Magic Wish rings with a 36.7 - carat peridot, chrysoprase, malachite and aquamarine in 18k gold

> *"When you look inside a cabochon, especially if it has small inclusions, you can see how alive the stone looks. The soft contours of the cabochon also provide a pleasant feel that sets it apart from other cuts," Isaline Arnoldi, Founder and CEO, Gemhype.com.*

1 of 4 · *Gemhype 5.6 - carat tourmaline*

Constantin Wild, Managing Director, Constantin Wild GmbH & Co.

"Similar to tumbled river stones, cabochons are smooth, sensual, and effectively showcase the character of the gem. Soft, durable, and ideal for modern everyday jewellery, they can be cut and carved into virtually any shape, offering endless design possibilities. This versatility, combined with their polished, natural look, makes cabochons a timeless choice in jewellery design."

A selection of cabochon cut gems from Constantin Wild including orange and red tourmaline, peridot, golden beryl, mandarin garnet, aquamarine and amethyst

Doris Hangartner, Designer and Gem Portfolio Consultant at Doris Hangartner

"To me, cabochons are sumptuous pools of colour. They are so smooth and gentle to the touch, truly mouthwatering. Humans are naturally drawn to round shapes like the moon, and cabochons possess a mesmerising allure, reminiscent of rocks smoothed by water over time. They retain colour in a charismatic and charming way, with some drawing you in and others exuding joy. The contrast between smooth cabochons and sparkling faceted gems is fascinating to work with, like yin and yang, creating a captivating experience."

Doris Hangartner ring with a 43.30 - carat cabochon moonstone in gold

> *The cabochon cut is ideal for phenomena gems, opaque gems, semi-translucent gems, and those with matrices, patterns, or inclusions. It imparts an earthy, dramatic look to*

> *jewellery," Eddie LeVian, CEO, Le Vian*

1 of 2 · *Le Vian Couture necklace with aquaprase, brown diamonds and vanilla diamonds in 18K gold*

Sirus Tanyawattanakul, CEO and Founder, Sirus Tanya

"We chose to create cabochon emeralds because their deep green hue and smooth surface evoke powerful emotions and capture the essence of high fashion. These cabochons also result in unique, timeless, and stunning jewellery pieces, making them a perfect choice for creating elegant and captivating designs."

Sirus Tanya earrings with emeralds and diamonds in 18k white gold

> *"A cabochon reflects a richer saturation of colour with a beautiful sheen, making it exclusive and highly desirable. These gems add more dimension and body, allowing for the creation of expressive pieces," Sunita Nahata, Founder and Designer, Sunita Nahata.*

1 of 5 · *Sunita Nahata cocktail ring with a 7.67 - carat opal, coloured gemstones and diamonds in 18k gold*

Marco Veschetti, Creative Director, Veschetti

"My love for cabochon gems stems from their ability to celebrate the stone's natural beauty in its most authentic form. It is an unpretentious approach to gem cutting, captivating internal features by enhancing their natural play of light and colour. It is special because it prioritises the gem's inherent qualities over artificial enhancement, creating a piece that is both elegant and genuine."

Veschetti Marina earrings with 60.80 - carats of carved aquamarines, 24.10 - carats of cabochon cut tanzanites and brilliant cut diamonds in 18k gold

Whether you're drawn to cabochons for their tactile curves or their power to magnify the internal life of a gemstone, it's clear this centuries-old shape is here to stay. The pieces below are just a glimpse into the wonderful world of cabochon jewels. Take a look and see which ones capture your attention...

Aurelia Demark

Karina Choudhrie Jewels

Il Grande Blu high jewellery necklace from the Dualism of Milan collection with 144.37 - carats of tanzanites, 48.25 - carats of sapphires and diamonds in black rhodium-plated rose gold

Mazahri

MUZO

Buccellati

Lily Gabriella

Ashley Zhang

GOOSSENS Paris

Reza

Tasaki

Artemis ring with blue topaz, mother-of-pearl and diamond in 18k gold

Boivin designed by Suzanne Belperron

Lydia Courteille

Garrard

Graff

GOOSSENS Paris

Boucheron

Reza

Sunita Nahata

Bvlgari

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