

Rocks that Rock: The Valley's Hottest Engagement Rings

Written by Nadine Toren

Television personality and AZfoothills.com columnist Nadine Toren is scouring the area, finding savvy Valley features, bringing readers "on the scene." Every day she'll introduce you to [celebrities](#), athletes, and give you an inside look into local events and hot spots. She'll touch on topical issues, and keep AZ fans posted on all the big talkers around town.



"If you like it, put a ring on it;" oh, those wise words from Beyonce.

It's the bling many of us have dreamt about for years; a sparkly display of commitment.

If you're prepping to pop the question this Valentine's Day and are still in need of a ring, we're here to help; however, there's a catch. You must have a wallet stocked with a bunch of Benjamins.

My mission: finding rocks that rock in the Valley.

Turns out, a handful of Phoenix-area jewelers showcase custom engagement rings; rings that adorn the fingers of many celebrities.

"Women are born with a gene of being jewelry lovers, and we accommodate that," said Jeff Hamra, President of Hamra Jewelers.

Boy, does Jeff Hamra know his stuff.

He opened his North Scottsdale jewelry shop in 1986, and says fine taste runs in his blood.

"My grandfather was a watchmaker years ago in Canada," said Hamra.

Grand-daddy taught this diamond connoisseur pretty well. Hamra hand-designs more than 1,500 variations of rings, but he says his recent baby is a \$25,000 platinum and 18-carat yellow gold ring with an intensely radiant 1.61 carat diamond set center-stage.

"If you look to the side of the ring, you'll see it has two rows of round, brilliant cut diamonds. Just above that, is a tight, faceted diamond, giving it a little extra pop."

That pop is sure to score you an "I do," as your lady sports a ring worth as much as a car.

But if you prefer buying your hopeful bride a condo for her finger, head to Coffin & Trout in Chandler.

"Elite is the important part. People are definitely looking for something others don't have," said Randy Coffin, President of Coffin & Trout.

Randy got into the bling biz when he was 19 years old; creating, repairing, designing, and manufacturing all his own stuff. He opened his jewelry store more than twenty years ago, and says the recent ring craze is all about color.

"Colored diamonds fall into that rarity. They're much more rare than white diamonds and much more expensive as well," said Coffin.

Yes, that radiance comes with a price tag, especially if you're after Coffin's latest engagement "must-have" from his Evolve Collection.

The custom \$106,000 ring graces a 4.20 center-stone surrounded by an additional 59-points of diamonds.

But that's not all.

Two fancy pink diamonds hug the main rock on the platinum band.

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"You can say 'I'm one of the only people in America that has these diamonds.'"

No doubt about it, your princess will look pretty in pink, but if money grows on trees in your neck of the woods, why not kick it up a notch?

Instead of charging a condo on your credit card, what about a house...but this house, small enough to fit on a finger.

"I recently sold one for \$1.6 million, so someone's going to end up with a heck of a buy on their hands," said Scott Gauthier, Owner of Gauthier Jewelers.

A heck of a buy, literally.

Scott Gauthier has been running his Kierland Commons jewelry store since 1989, but his downtown workshop is where all the magic happens.

"When you walk in here I've hand-waxed everything, and probably set most of the majors," said Gauthier.

At seven years old, Gauthier took to rock collecting, and his hobby has grown into quite a career. He won't mention any names, but Gauthier says his clients include celebrities, athletes, and Valley elitists, and he takes pride in being classic, clean, and contemporary.

"I think people are looking for things more personal and unique."

According to Gauthier, there's nothing more personal and unique than popping the question equipped with his \$607,100 engagement ring. It features a very rare 2.10 carat pink diamond; pear-shaped and intense.

"People seem to recognize my work, especially people who know jewelry."

But before you stress about breaking the bank, take a breath. You can still get your hot little hands on designer rings without going broke.

In fact, all three of these Valley jewelers can accommodate your budget, offering bling in the lower thousands.

"Our rings start at \$2,500," said Gauthier.

So whether you're using hard-earned cash, or cashing out your trust-fund, this bling is bound to get you a bride.

"These guys come in and just want to make their hopeful wives very happy," said Hamra.

And we all can agree a happy wife equals a happy life.



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