

For your eyes

only

Marilyn Monroe immortalised the relationship between diamonds and the fairer sex. **Louise O'Loughlin** on how Myhlendorph Private Jeweller makes dreams come true

Hollywood icon Elizabeth Taylor's collection of jewellery, lovingly compiled over many decades, and including the breathtaking 33-carat Krupp diamond, has great sentimental value.

Each piece is of profound significance, representing special occasions in her lifetime and landmarks in her much-vaunted relationships. Many of us share Taylor's passion, albeit often on a more modest scale. Like her, we seek to add pieces of jewellery to our collections which are not just rare, but frequently unique and, most importantly, personal to us.

Some pieces will even become 'family heirlooms', each with their own memories and history – a far cry from off-the-shelf High Street jewellery.

But sourcing jewellery of this nature can be a daunting prospect. So where do you begin on this voyage of discovery? A call to Anne Thrane and Christina Grunwaldt, diamond experts and owners of Myhlendorph, London's leading private jeweller, is a good start.



Anne and Christina established Myhlendorph in Brussels in 2003, after Anne was taken by her husband to meet one of the old diamond broker families in Antwerp to source a maternity gift following the birth of her oldest child. It was this visit that changed Anne's direction in life.

"I entered an amazing old art deco house, and the broker I met there later became my mentor as he uncovered my passion for gems during that meeting," says Anne. "I fell under the spell of a diamond obsession and could think of nothing else for weeks and weeks after the meeting.

"While I was choosing that special gift, more knowledge and understanding about diamonds was imparted to me than I had ever received from any regular jewellery shop. It

was such a wonderful experience that I decided there and then that this was something I would like to pass on to other women."

Anne and Christina are fully qualified and today Myhlendorph Private Jeweller still uses the contacts Anne made during the first years in Belgium, alongside others added since. It has led to some amazing opportunities and insights into the world of gemstones.

Anne has even been privileged to be able to hold and see the 493-carat Letseng Legacy diamond, which has since been broken down into 20 diamonds sold to Graff, the world-famous gem distributors.

"Christina and I are extremely passionate about diamonds and precious gems – what self-respecting girl wouldn't be after all," continues Anne. "It is this passion which we bring to bear in our personal jewellery service. We boast extensive knowledge of all gem stones, in particular diamonds, and we pride ourselves on being able to recommend the most appropriate jewels for our clients.

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"We encourage clients to relax, harmonise and allow them to fall in love with the gems. Once they have that feeling, we know it is right for them."

Clients are encouraged to get up close and personal with precious gems at Myhlendorph's inspirational jewellery evenings. These are not your run-of-the-mill sparkling wine and lukewarm canapé soirées, but exclusive gatherings with Champagne, fun-filled conversation and a small briefcase full of bespoke creations, all presided over by discreet security staff.

During a Myhlendorph jewellery evening, Anne and Christina explain about diamonds what to look for when purchasing them and they help clients put together a highly personal piece of jewellery that will become 'memorabilia' and not just a templated chainstore item.

The Myhlendorph way is to make buying jewellery a special experience. Evenings are arranged at a time to suit the client, either individually or with a carefully selected group of close friends, away from the rather stressful atmosphere of a retail jeweller.

"When we meet clients it's just 'you and

us,'" says Anne. "If we don't have the perfect gemstone, we guarantee that we can source it from our contacts around the world. And when we find it, it will be uniquely tailored by one of our experienced jewellery designers and brought to life by our highly skilled goldsmiths and setters in Antwerp, Copenhagen and London.

"Strictly speaking we don't sell jewellery. We tailor-make it for each individual private client – not only will your item be unique, it will uniquely mirror your personality."

Christina and Anne like nothing more than to advise clients on their own jewellery and recommend additional pieces to complement existing collections. "Since launching Myhlendorph, we have undertaken some extraordinary commissions," explains Christina.

"On one occasion we were asked to source a one carat rare natural fancy intense red diamond. The world's largest red diamond is 'only' 5.11 carats. Most jewellers have never seen one and never will. We succeeded in locating it."

Myhlendorph has established a fine reputation for excellence in bespoke precious gems, and is fast becoming the

private jeweller of choice for discerning London ladies and celebrities.

Whether for a special occasion or an investment, every gemstone sourced by Myhlendorph benefits from a certificate from a leading gemmological grading institution, while every jewellery piece is issued with appropriate authenticity and quality certification.

"We are very fortunate to be able to spend our working lives making our clients gasp with delight at the sheer beauty of our gemstone collections," comments Christina. "The ability of the diamond – the hardest mineral known to man – to melt your heart even after 2,800 years of mining is such a gift that we never tire of bringing this into our clients' homes." ●

• **essence info**

- To make an appointment to arrange
- your jewellery evening with
- Myhlendorph Private Jeweller
- **Email:** info@myhlendorph.co.uk
- **Website:** www.myhlendorph.co.uk