

JEWELRY

How much will the Harrods Diamond fetch?

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Harrods storefront

By STAFF REPORTS

British department store Harrods is opening its vault for the sale of a nearly 230-carat diamond.

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Dubbed the Harrods Diamond, the stone clicks in at 228.31 carats and was given a G, a class meaning near colorless, and a VS1 clarity marker by the Gemological Institute of America. Diamonds and colored-gemstones of such size and rarity are often put on the auction block rather than private sale, making the Harrods Diamond sale a first-come, first-serve case.

One from the vault

Harrods' safe deposit offers affluent clients a fully secure, safe and strong facility to store valuables. The room dates back to the Victorian period and can be rented at a yearly rate.

Similar to a bank, consumers can opt for a small box or a storage room. Yearly flat rates range from 300 to 10,500, or \$372 to \$13,000 at current exchange rates.

Each are opened with a unique key in which only the owner has access.

The Harrods Diamond, owned by a client wishing to remain anonymous, will be displayed in the department store's Fine Jewelry Room, from mid-December. The diamond will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Asking price for the pear-shaped diamond, which has spent much of its time in a safe deposit box, is available upon application. The sale of the Harrods Diamond is also the first time it has been displayed for the public.



The Harrods Diamond, image courtesy of Harrods

Diamonds of such note have been generating huge prices on the auction block.

For instance, a 15.38-carat pear-shaped pink diamond became the most expensive stone of its kind to sell at auction.

The stone, sold by Cora International on May 17 via Sotheby's auction, was sold for \$31.5 million during the auctioneer's Magnificent Jewels Sale in Geneva. The rare, sought-after diamond, called the Unique Pink, was the highlight of the auction due to its clarity and pure structure ([see story](#)).

Large diamonds have also been promoted as of late as a display of ability.

For example, British jeweler Graff Diamonds demonstrated its expertise with the unveiling of the 118.78-karat Graff Venus diamond.

The Graff Venus is a heart-shaped diamond, a shape that commands superior ability to ensure the stone is symmetrical. The laborious process needed to polish the stone "incorporated an extraordinary combination of science with sense, heart, passion and risk" ([see story](#)).