

JEWELRY

Graff purchases world's largest rough diamond for \$53M

September 27, 2017



The Lesedi La Rona diamond was found in Botswana. Image credit: Graff Diamonds

By STAFF REPORTS

British jeweler Graff Diamonds has acquired the largest rough diamond in the world, the Lesedi La Rona.

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The Lesedi La Rona is the largest rough diamond to be discovered in more than a century. Weighing in at 1,109-carats, the diamond was purchased by Graff's chairman Laurence Graff from the chairman of Canada's Lucara Diamond Corp.

Diamonds in the rough

In June 2016, the 1,109-carat rough diamond, a stand-out not only due to its size, but for its quality and transparency, failed to sell at an auction held by auctioneer Sotheby's.

Mr. Graff reportedly purchased the Lesedi La Rona diamond from Lucara Diamond Corp, which owns the mine where it was found, for \$53 million.

The Lesedi La Rona diamond was found at the Lucara Karowe mine in Botswana. According to Graff, the diamond was formed more than 2.5 billion years ago.

Graff Diamonds will now pass the stone to its artisans who will "unlock the hidden radiance of the world's most magnificent gem."



Graff artisans will cut and polish the stone in a demonstration of ability. Image credit: Graff Diamonds

In 2016, the British jeweler showed its capabilities to unleash the natural beauty in a diamond with the reveal of a 105.07-carat stone.

Graff's gemologists carefully analyzed the diamond in the rough, mapping which cuts would work best for the stone. The result is the Graff Vendme, a D Flawless pear-shaped diamond that commemorated the brand's then-new store on the Parisian street ([see story](#)).

Also, 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](#)).

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