

# ROGER DERY GEM DESIGN



July 8, 2014

## Rambutan, Durian, Mangosteen! Oh my!

Ok it's not lions and tigers and bears! Oh my! At least we know those are animals. But Rambutan, Durian, and Mangosteen? Animal, vegetable, or mineral? Person, place, or thing? Where do fruits fit into the game?

Roger and I just returned from Sri Lanka where it's technically the end of the rainy season although there were quite a few torrential downpours during our stay. The upside of lots of rain is that it's the season for fruit, and not just any fruit, but the exotic fruit...the rare and special fruits that Sri Lankans look forward to all year long. These fruits must be special in a land of paradise where fruit is abundant year round.

Rambutan was our first taste treat purchased from a roadside vendor. Rambutan has a leathery reddish skin with flexible needles. The name Rambutan comes from a Malay word rambut, which means hairs. The outer skin is broken open to reveal a pale flesh on a single pit with a mild taste and texture similar to grapes.



Our second taste treat was Durian, often referred to as the "King of Fruits" because of its large size, the spiky hard shell, and it's very distinctive and sometimes unfavorable odor even unopened. In Sri Lanka some people enjoy the smell of Durian while others vehemently dislike it hence Durian is banned from most hotels and public transportation. We had a Durian in our car for a couple of days; the pungent and permeating aroma couldn't be ignored. Durian fruit flesh has the consistency of custard and tastes like a cross between almond, custard, and cream, unlike anything we've ever tasted.



Next we tried Mangosteen, my new favorite! Mangosteens are purple about the size of a tangerine. The heavy rind must be broken carefully as the juice irrevocably stains. The flesh also resembles tangerines in shape and texture with some seeds. The flavor is sweet, yet mild, with a bit of a zing.



Our trip to Sri Lanka wasn't all about fruit; we found some sapphires as well! Below is Roger's first recut, a 2.40 ct blue sapphire in one of Roger's favorite cushion outlines. Sapphires have been faceted as cushions for centuries as it's a shape that maximizes the sapphire rough.



Exotic fruits, blue sapphires, and paradise, what more could a girl ask for?

Roger and Ginger Dery  
[Spectral Gems](#)  
[Roger Dery Gem Design](#)  
248-545-3546



[Join Our Mailing List](#)