

ROGER DERY GEM DESIGN



January 29, 2015

Marsala!

Marsala is the 2015 Pantone Color of the Year. To me Marsala is a Sicilian Madeira for sipping or the star ingredient in Chicken or Veal Marsala.



Pantone describes Marsala as "much like the fortified wine that gives Marsala its name, this tasteful hue embodies the satisfying richness of a fulfilling meal while its grounding red-brown roots emanate a sophisticated, natural earthiness." Now, THAT is a mouthful.

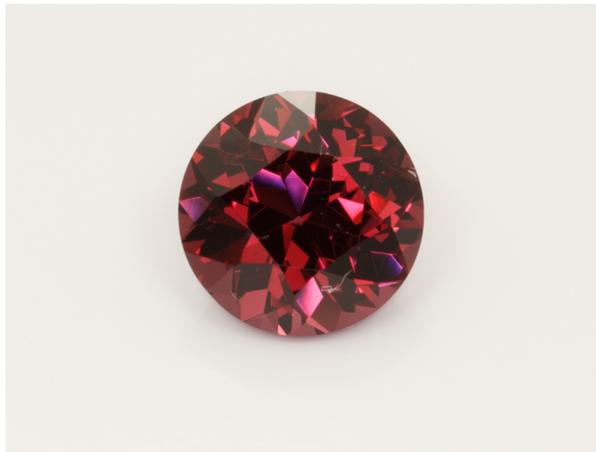


I have to be honest here, Marsala isn't really doing it for me. Marsala is reminiscent of mauve, a blend of red, terra cotta, brown, and oxblood (who remembers oxblood from the 70s and 80s?). After the recent significant colors of the year like Tangerine Tango, Emerald, and Royal Orchid, the Marsala color is mild. So, I wondered, is it just me or are others feeling the same way. My unofficial jeweler and retail consumer survey is all over the board, Marsala seems to be a polarizing color, either they LOVE it...or they DON'T!

In gemstones Marsala is well represented In the Garnet family by Rhodolite, Umba, and some Malaya. The 5.83ct Rhodolite Emerald Cut below was cut from rough Roger acquired during his August 2014 trip to Tanzania. Roger combined a radiant technique on the pavilion (the bottom of the gem) and a step cut crown (the top of the gem).



Spinel is a gemstone that can occur in the Marsala color. The 3.18ct Round Spinel below is from Sri Lanka, acquired during our June 2014 trip. Roger re-faceted the Spinel with a Portuguese pavilion using many small diamond shaped facets on the pavilion.



Another option is Zircon which occurs in a variety of wine shades. The 10.85ct Mozambique Rose Cut Round below is from rough Roger purchased when we were in Tanzania in November for the Arusha Gem Fair. Rose Cuts are classic designs used in the 1880s, which Roger loves to re-work to increase their brilliance and beauty.



Love it or not, it seems Marsala is here for the year!

Roger and Ginger Dery

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