

Paris Fashion Week and Its Gems

Paris was aglow during the first week of July as Fashion Week kicked off to an international audience. This year, the Place Vendôme was even a little bit Italian as four global brands unveiled collections inspired by Italy and the Mediterranean Sea. On trend were joyful collections flamboyant colors and cheerfulness.

By Marie Chabrol

While there were not really any major trends, four Italian brands that joined the event showcased new pieces that drew inspiration from their Italian heritage.

Giampiero Bodino looked to Italy and the Mediterranean Sea for a collection of 19 pieces that celebrate color and a *joie de vivre*. Contrasts between pink opal and amethyst, blue sapphire, yellow beryl and fire opal attracted attention with smaller stones for a softer result.

Contrast seems to be the preference of the *most French* among Italian families, the Mellerio, who have gone back to their historical roots with a small, but magnificent collection. Laure-Isabelle Mellerio was inspired by the Borromeo Islands, known for a beautiful Palazzo and luxuriant gardens, to bring together tourmaline, tsavorite, sapphire and enamel *guilloché* for an elegant and refined look.



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1. *Barocco* necklace in pink gold, diamonds, yellow beryl, fire opal, amethyst and seven rubellites (169.88 ctw) by Giampiero Bodino.
2. *Giardino* earrings in pink gold, with 2.66-ct and 2.79-ct blue-green tourmalines, 5.29-ct pink sapphires, 1.39-ct spessartine garnets, 2.82-ct tsavorites, diamonds and green enamel by Mellerio dits Miller.
3. *Giardino* ring in pink gold, 2.24-ct blue-green tourmaline, pink sapphires, spessartine garnets, tsavorites, diamonds and green enamel by Mellerio dits Miller.
4. *Corona* bracelet in white gold, sapphires and diamonds by Giampiero Bodino.
5. *Mosaico* bracelet in pink gold, diamonds, pink opals and amethysts by Giampiero Bodino.
6. *Tesori del Mare* bracelet in white gold, titanium, diamonds, colored sapphires and pearls by Giampiero Bodino.



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7. *Bosquet de l'Enselade* brooch in yellow gold, diamonds (colorless, pink, and yellow), sapphires (blue, purple, pink and yellow), emeralds, peridots, tsavorites, demantoids and spessartites, pink tourmalines, alexandrites and chrysoprase by Dior Joaillerie.

8. *Couronne de Fleurs* ring in gold, rubies, emeralds, pink sapphires, diamonds (colorless, pink and yellow) by Dior Joaillerie.

9. *Bosquet de l'Enselade* bracelet in gold, diamonds (colorless and yellow), rock crystal, black opal, emeralds, spessartites, tsavorites, pink and red spinels, sapphires (blue and yellow), Paraiba tourmaline by Dior Joaillerie.

10. *Hameau de la Reine* ring in gold, diamonds (colorless and pink), Paraiba tourmalines, tsavorites, demantoids, sapphires (blue, violet and rose) and lacquer by Dior Joaillerie.

11. *Verde Bisazza*, 18K white gold cuff watch set with 156 baguette-cut emeralds (12.48 ctw), 43 baguette-cut diamonds (4.73 ctw) and 100 brilliant-cut diamonds (7.40 ctw) and 23 black opals (2.90 ctw), black opal dial, animated by the brand's 56P quartz movement, by Piaget.

12. *Sunlight Journey* ring in 18K pink gold, 4.02-ct yellow diamond (FVY-VS2), pink spinels and diamonds (yellow and colorless) by Piaget.

13. *Viva l'Arte* ring in 18K pink gold, red spinels, purple sapphires, diamonds and feather marquetry by Piaget.

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Evoking the Amalfi coast, Piaget's *Sunlight Journey* collection features a mosaic of luminous colors, including opal, sapphire, emerald, spinel and diamond as well as feather marquetry. The Swiss brand is quickly joining the very closed circle of high jewelry, with gems that pay vibrant homage to the work of Yves Piaget. Among these beautiful stones was a 10.09-carat pink spinel from Tanzania and an 11.85-carat fancy intense yellow diamond.

Other brands explored elsewhere for inspiration. For one day at Dior, the brand's offices were transformed into a mysterious garden like those of Versailles. Victoire de Castellane designed a very colorful and highly technical collection by mixing different colors of gold and rare stones, such as hauyne or demantoid garnet with a multitude of gemstones whose colors blended festively together.



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If we are talking party, we have to mention Chaumet, which has translated the world's great musical scenes into a lovely collection: Glynderbourne and its tartans, the Scala and its red passion, and the Metropolitan of New York. Sapphires from Madagascar and Ceylon, chrysoberyl, rhodolite garnet and Muzo emeralds were among the stars!

For Chanel, it was about the complicated love story between Gabrielle and Hugh Grosvenor—the second Duke of Westminster, who was Chanel's lover in the late 1920s. One of the richest men in Europe, he possessed a legendary large sailing ship, the *Flying Cloud*, which gave its name to this collection of more than 60 jewels mainly honoring diamonds and sapphires. It was also during this period that the villa, *La Pausa*, was built. It is said that this house was a gift from the Duke to Coco. Whatever the story, she spent long periods there and welcomed many French and international intelligentsia. The house has also returned to Chanel, which will have it completely restored.



14. Ring in white and yellow gold, lacquer, 11.74-ct Colombian emerald, rubies, emeralds, baguette-cut sapphires, yellow sapphires and diamonds by Chaumet.

15. Transformable necklace in white and yellow gold, lacquer, 28.98-ct Colombian Muzo emerald, 39 cabochon emeralds from Zambia, rubies, emeralds, baguette-cut sapphires, yellow sapphires and brilliant-cut diamonds by Chaumet.

16. Ring in white gold and yellow gold, 10.11-ct Ceylon Padparadscha sapphire, 7.37-ct violet Ceylon sapphire, Uмба garnets, diamonds (colorless and champagne) by Chaumet.

17. Ring in pink gold and lacquer, 4.83-ct Mozambique ruby, six ruby cabochons (1.99, 1.60, 1.26, 1.24, 1.17, and 0.96 cts), two square-cut Mozambique rubies (0.77 and 0.75 ct), two rhodolite garnets (1.60 ctw), round and baguette-cut rubies and diamonds by Chaumet.

18. Necklace in white and yellow gold, 29.77-ct morganite, 23.38-ct chrysoberyl, 12.87-ct Imperial topaz, 12.21-ct pink tourmaline, 10.67-ct tanzanite, 2.12-ct pear-shaped DVVS2 diamond, thirty EFVVS diamonds (0.55 to 0.71 ct), Uмба garnets and round diamonds (champagne and colorless) by Chaumet.

19. *Golden Braid* bracelet in 18K yellow gold, 4.22-ct diamond and 273 brilliant diamonds by Chanel.



20. *Azurean Braid* ring in 18K white gold, 11.49-ct blue sapphire and 112 brilliant diamonds by Chanel.

21. *Turquoise Waters* necklace in 18K white gold, 2.58-ct pear-cut diamond, 12 cushion-cut blue sapphires, 34 oval-cut blue sapphires, three pear-cut blue sapphires, two round-cut blue sapphires and 1552 brilliant diamonds (23.84 ctw) by Chanel.

Secrets were on the agenda at Van Cleef & Arpels. The French house designed a collection of 65 pieces composed entirely of message jewelry, transformations and double reading. Puzzles, retractable elements and hidden mechanisms celebrated the ingenuity of the jewelers when it comes to the high-tech approach to creating such small and detailed objects.

Among the spectacular stones was an untreated 45-carat Burmese sapphire, a no-oil 10.17-carat Zambian emerald and a remarkable combination of natural untreated sapphires from Madagascar weighing more than 42 carats. On the brand's *YouTube* channel, small videos present the jewelry in a way that explains the mechanisms and hidden messages.



22. *Sailor Tattoo* bracelet in 18K white gold with diamonds by Chanel.

23. *Labyrinthe* ring in white and yellow gold, 13.01-ct fancy intense yellow cushion-cut diamond, onyx and diamonds by Van Cleef & Arpels.

24. *Secret des amoureux* brooch in 18K gold (white, pink and yellow), diamonds, colored sapphires, a 2.74-ct pink-orange Ceylon sapphire, 1.36-ct purple Ceylon sapphire and a heart-shaped 12.04-ct rubellite by Van Cleef & Arpels.

25. *Papillon Secret Watch* in white gold, diamonds, emeralds, black spinel, onyx, white mother-of-pearl, featuring a 14.57-ct Colombian emerald, manual winding mechanical movement. One of the butterflies hides a mother-of-pearl dial under its lower wing, unveiled with the fingertips by Van Cleef & Arpels.

26. *Pégase* necklace in white gold, diamonds, emeralds and a 45.10-ct Ceylon sapphire. Detachable clip. Within the central pendant is hidden a miniature Pegasus in white gold. The mythical winged horse can be kept secret, revealed in broad daylight, or suspended from a clip, in the company of two other detachable pendants by Van Cleef & Arpels.



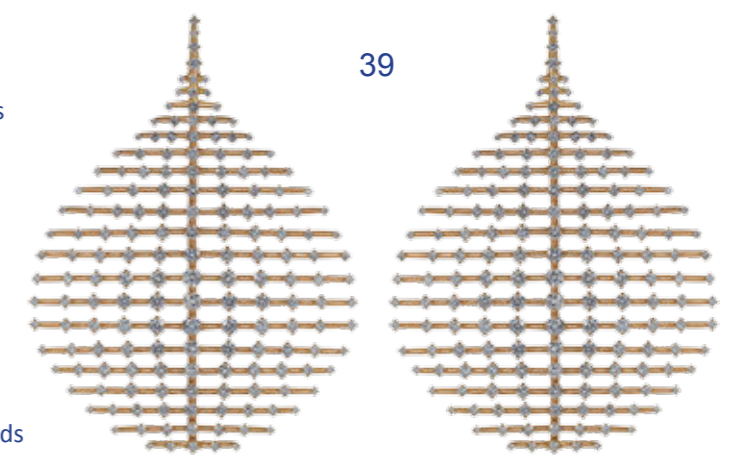
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Boucheron celebrated the Russian winter, as it was the first French jeweler to settle in Russia in 1897. In 1898, the snowflake appeared on pins created by the brand, with delicate diamond-pavé branches. In 1906 and 1912, Boucheron designed two exceptional necklaces for one of its biggest Russian clients, Barbara Kelch, wife of the multimillionaire Alexander Kelch, and granddaughter of gold mine and railway magnate, Ivan Bazanov. Today, the *Flocon Imperial* necklace echoes these past creations, borrowing from Nature's perfect geometry to create a small miracle of symmetry in the snowflakes. The animal collection was enriched by an owl, a husky and a raccoon. With a high level of technical prowess, Boucheron's craftsmen have hollowed out rock crystal, filling it with diamonds and black spinel. One stone particularly caught our attention: an amazing old-cut 31.21-carat gray-blue Burmese sapphire.

A meeting with David Morris' French team allowed us to discover one of the biggest conch pearls displayed in Paris, as well as an impressive purple sapphire weighing more than 40 carats.

- 27. Necklace set with a 78.33-ct Santa Maria oval aquamarine, moonstones, Akoya cultured pearls, diamonds and aquamarines, in white gold by Boucheron.
- 28. *Laïka le Husky* timepiece in white gold, diamonds, sapphires, spinels, rock crystal and agate by Boucheron.
- 29. Two-finger ring in white gold, Akoya cultured pearls and diamonds by Boucheron.
- 30. Ring in white gold set with diamonds and a rock crystal dome filled with diamonds and black spinels by Boucheron.
- 31. Bracelet in white gold ring set with blue chalcedony, mother-of-pearl and diamonds by Boucheron.
- 32. A 40-ct natural conch pearl and diamond ring in pink gold by David Morris.
- 33. *Sunset* ring featuring rubies and diamonds in white gold by David Morris.



- 34. The *Are You Calder Or Not?* aluminum and red gold earrings with two aquamarines (27.50 ctw), two morganites (37.41 ctw) and diamonds by Suzanne Syz.
- 35. *Awakening Lotus* necklace in gold featuring a 18.79-ct fancy bluish-green diamond (enlarged in center) by De Beers.
- 36. *Soothing Lotus* necklace featuring rough and faceted colorless and fancy color diamonds, and a 6.06-ct suspended diamond by De Beers.
- 37. *Spring Blossoming* titanium ring featuring diamonds and a 7.9-ct tsavorite garnet by Suzanne Syz.
- 38. Whimsical *Life Savers* earrings in silver, enamel and diamonds by Suzanne Syz.
- 39. *Brilliant* collection diamond and gold earrings that won first place in the *Couture Design Awards* last June, by Fernando Jorge.

The famous diamantaire, De Beers, opened its coffers to showcase unusual rough diamonds, including a yellow octahedron of more than 296 carats. But very importantly were its *Awakening Lotus* ring featuring an 18.79-carat fancy bluish-green rough diamond and its *Soothing Lotus* jewels that comprised a mix of rough and faceted white and colored diamonds. A daring but successful creative choice, this mélange demonstrated that customers are not afraid of this type of creative design in high jewelry.

Among the independent designers, we must mention Suzanne Syz. Like every year, she presented whimsical and refreshing models, far from what we think of as classical jewelry. They featured spinel and Paraiba tourmaline as well as tsavorite garnet and the amazing use of bronze and aluminum in the new pieces.

The Mexican jeweler, Fernando Jorge, chose Paris to unveil his new *Brilliant* collection showcasing jewelry designed as mobiles. He also received first prize in the *Diamonds* category of the *Couture Design Awards* at the Couture Show in June 2017 in Las Vegas.

Three French designers deserve to be highlighted here. Anais Rheiner, based in Saint-Germain-des-Près, offers truly feminine jewels inspired by Asia and Africa, where she was born. Her jewels are a mix between jewelry and sculpture with rich textures playing with light and colored gemstones such as ruby, sapphire, tourmaline and diamond for a very refined result.

Amelie Viaene has been making jewelry for the last ten years, but the last few months were a watershed in her career as an independent designer. She represented France at the G7 Craftswomen Summit Tokyo on May 16, and has opened a pop-up store in the beautiful Galerie Vivienne in Paris. She also received the prestigious *Grand Prix de la Création de la Ville de Paris* on January 17, 2017. Her jewels are a tribute to craftsmanship and architecture, and highlight impressive gemstones to provide an amazing ethereal result.

The young jewelry company, Arteau, offers bold jewels mixing titanium, gold and rare gemstones including atypical garnet and rhodochrosite. We discovered their jewelry during the Révélations Art Fair in the Grand Palais, and wish them great success.



40. Yellow gold earrings set with amethysts and tourmalines by Anais Rheiner. (Photo: Dominique Dubois)
 41. Yellow gold ring set with tanzanite by Anais Rheiner. (Photo: Dominique Dubois)
 42. Yellow gold and titanium earrings, featuring a 14.15-ct chalcedony, a 17.07-ct rhodochrosite, sapphires (6.90 ctw) and spinels (6.33 ctw) by Arteau Paris.
 43. Red gold and blackened silver ring featuring a 7.89-ct Burmese jade cabochon, eight Namibian chalcedony cabochons (6.13-ctw) and diamonds by Arteau Paris.
 44. Yellow gold and blackened silver earrings featuring a 6.05-ct Tanzanian spinel, a 5.07-ct tsavorite, four spinels from Madagascar (3.18 ctw), four tsavorites (2.47 ctw) and Burmese gray spinels (1.47 ctw) by Arteau Paris.
 45. Pink sapphire and diamond ring in white gold by David Morris.
 46. *Ginza* yellow gold ring set with tourmaline by Amelie Viaene.



47. Important Gold necklace featuring diamonds, emeralds and a 91-ct untreated Burmese sapphire by Moussaieff.
 48. *Phoenix* white gold ring set with tourmaline by Amelie Viaene.
 49. White gold ring featuring diamonds and a rare vivid green kornepurine by Nirav Modi.
 50. *Sunlight Journey* necklace in 18K red, pink, yellow gold and platinum set with a 10.09-ct pear-shaped red spinel from Tanzania, a 6.63-ct cushion-cut yellow diamond (FVY-VS2), a 0.80-ct brilliant-cut diamond (F-VVS2), red spinels, yellow and colorless diamonds by Piaget.
 51. White gold bracelet featuring diamonds, emeralds and natural pearls by Nirav Modi.

Finally, we mention a few jewelry brands that came to Paris for Fashion Week that will return in September for the Biennale des Antiquaires. The diamond dealer and designer, Nirav Modi, presented many models, but the most remarkable was a gold ring featuring diamonds and a bright green kornepurine from Tanzania.

The discreet Moussaieff brand also showcased some exceptional jewels. Among our favorites was a remarkable bracelet with more than 100 carats of untreated Ceylon sapphires and red spinels as well as a pendant with an untreated 91-carat sapphire.

Paris is still the global citadel for high jewelry industry, and the events in July did not disappoint. *All photos are courtesy of the brands featured unless otherwise specified.*