

What are the most common colors of alexandrite?

Unfortunately, most alexandrites show either a nice color in daylight or an attractive color under incandescent light. Rarely are both colors bright and vivid and often stones that change to bright red under incandescent light are only brown or almost black in daylight. Conversely, some of the nicest daylight blue green stones only change to faint pink under incandescent light.

Tanzanian stones from Tunduru occur in a wide range of colors. Many of the stones appear to be a khaki or yellowish green in daylight moving to brownish red under incandescent light. The deposit also produces some world class bluish green to purple red stones on occasion.

The deposit near Andrapradesh in India, has produced some exceptional stones in the last few years but now production has dwindled. Although their color change is often weak, the stones are well known for their outstanding daylight bluish green colors. Under incandescent light most of the stones appear plumb reddish purple.

Brazil produces some outstanding alexandrites and they generally command the highest prices. Top Brazilian stones appear dark bluish green under daylight and reddish purple-to-purple red under incandescent light. Although the green daylight colors are less attractive than the blue greens of the Indian stones, the incandescent colors are normally a stronger red. Exceptional stones from the Hematita deposit show a blue primary hue and a greenish secondary hue under daylight while the incandescent colors vary from violetish pink through pinkish purplish red to purplish red. The best incandescent color of Brazilian alexandrites is a reddish purple or raspberry color. Although Brazilian stones normally show a superior color change, some Indian stones are outstanding and the daylight greens are the very best.

See Alexandrite Tsarstone collectors guide, What are the most common colors of alexandrite?, <http://www.alexandrite.net/viewpage.html?id=GG-0127>
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