

World's Largest Blue Diamond Sells for \$24M at Christie's

BY MICHELLE TAY | MAY 15, 2014

The world's largest flawless vivid blue diamond sold for \$24 million at a **Christie's** sale in Geneva on May 14.

The proud buyer: high-end jeweler **Harry Winston**, which is renaming the 13.22-carat pear-shaped stone **The Winston Blue**.

"I had to buy it," said Nayla Hayek, CEO of Harry Winston and chairwoman of Swatch Group, in a statement. "In January 2013 we purchased Harry Winston and since then my ambition has been to acquire the most desirable and unique gems. Today, I am proud to own the most beautiful blue diamond in the world... [the] largest flawless fancy-vivid blue the GIA had ever graded."

The Blue worked out to another world record price of \$1.8 million per carat. Among the top 10 lots of the sale were: a **Cartier** belle epoque diamond brooch for \$17.6 million (pictured above, left); a pear-shaped D-color flawless 75.97 carat-diamond for \$14.5 million; and a light pink diamond necklace totaling 76.51 carats by **Leviev**, which sold for \$10 million.



Rahul Kadakia, international head of Christie's jewelry department, noted that the Cartier brooch's price was a 660% increase from the \$2.65 million it first sold for at Christie's Geneva back in 1991. "The jewelry market continues to remain extremely vibrant and we look forward to a buoyant season as we move into auctions at Christie's Hong Kong, London, Paris and New York," he added.

All told, Christie's Magnificent Jewels sale brought a total of \$154 million, smashing the \$141 million record **Sotheby's** hit just a day earlier at its Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels sale, also held in Geneva.

Christie's next Magnificent Jewels sale will be held in Hong Kong on May 27. Headlining it is a rare Golconda diamond pendent necklace named **The Eye of Golconda**, whose centrepiece is the largest Golconda-mined diamond ever to be auctioned in Asia.

The sale will comprise more than 300 lots estimated to fetch over \$100 million. There will be an array of rare colored diamonds, flawless diamonds, jadeite jewels by **Chow Tai Fook**, vividly saturated Burmese rubies and sapphires, Colombian emeralds, as well as exclusive vintage pieces from **Bulgari**, Harry Winston and **Van Cleef & Arpels**.