

# Robb Report's 21 Ultimate Gifts:

## The Archduke's Diamond

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76.45 carats of internally flawless diamond, as certified by the Gemological Institute of America, flashing around your loved one's neck. The Archduke Joseph Diamond, a D-colored gem, would be the crown jewel of any collection. The elongated cushion-shaped Indian diamond takes its name from former owner Archduke Joseph August (1872—1962), a Hungarian prince of the Hapsburg dynasty who was married to Princess Auguste of Bavaria.

The gem is classified as a Golconda diamond—a colorless stone with a limpid transparency and clear appearance, mined from the diamond district of Golconda in India. Light appears to pass through the diamond completely unimpeded, giving the gem a soft and watery quality.

It is believed that Archduke Joseph gave the diamond to his son Joseph Francis (1895—1957). In 1933, the diamond was deposited in the Hungarian General Credit Bank, and three years later it was sold to a European banker, who kept the stone in a safe deposit box in France.

Consider the provenance of the Archduke Joseph Diamond, how it must have been admired at royal parties and banquets, and how the stone can once again become the center of attention at your social gatherings.

