

In Living Color: Desert's Gay Marriage Jewelry Mecca Blooms

(Posted: 26/06/08) Today, many marriage-minded LGBT couples are seeking non-traditional ways to commemorate their historic unions

June 25, 2008 Couples looking to tie the knot under California's new marriage laws are checking bridal jewelry off their lists at Libertine, a Palm Springs area fine jewelry salon.

The resort-based Indian Wells boutique carries an extensive line of rainbow sapphire jewelry for men and women to mark these historic commitments with unique, symbolic style.

San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker chose rainbow colors for a "*freedom flag*" in 1978 to symbolize the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, who have adopted the rainbow symbolism ever since.

Today, many marriage-minded LGBT couples are seeking non-traditional ways to commemorate their historic unions. For these trailblazers, rainbow sapphire jewelry satisfies their bridal jewelry needs for beauty, style and symbolic pride.

Libertine business owner Matilde Parente features jewelry fashions that run the gamut from traditionally based bands to contemporary crossover or bypass styles for both sexes. "Women love the romanticism of our pendant and earring styles too," said Parente. "Vivid rainbow designs add that pop of color, intrigue and individuality to each piece," she said.

While blue sapphire remains America's favorite colored stone, the gem can occur in every color of the rainbow. Libertine's line is set in eighteen-karat white or yellow gold, with many styles available in sterling silver too. Many of the shop's most popular bridal bands are made with the latest six-color combination of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.

To Parente, rainbow sapphire bridal styles capture the essence of her boutique. "Libertine is all about freedom, and our clients' freedom of individual expression that marks their signature style. What better way to express love and commitment than through something as long-lasting and beautiful as rainbow sapphire jewelry?"

Libertine also offers options for tradition couples for whom only a diamond ring or simple wedding band will due. "Even though we don't carry the usual bridal jewelry or big diamond engagement rings, our popular assortment of bands in tungsten, titanium and other exotic metals are show-stoppers."

Active men find tungsten bands preferable to gold or even platinum, both of which can be easily scratched during activities such as weight lifting, gardening or rock climbing. For these men, exotic metals make a sensible lifestyle choice.

Women who shun statement diamond rocks can also find what rings true for them from the shop's line of tension-set diamond titanium bands that feature smaller gems and be custom-made using diamonds or colored stones.

For beauty and affordability, Libertine's rainbow sapphire jewelry set in sterling silver offers brides and grooms-to-be a perfect gift choice for their wedding party. "We're proud to offer new arrivals weekly — and we're always

gently priced," Parente added.

Libertine® fine jewelry salon is located on the Lobby Level at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, Calif. The shop features a range of exotic and one-of-a-kind styles in karat gold and silver, as well as jeweled accessories. Exclusive designers found only at Libertine in the Palm Springs area include Spectrum-award winning designer Paula Crevoshay, Israel's rising star My Michelle, sterling silver by Chelsea Taylor, Platifina and others. On-site graduate gemologist services include individualized jewelry styling sessions and Jewelry Genie© as well as non-commercial spouse and speaker programs.

Information: (760) 773-0220 or www.libertinejewelry.com