

**ABOUT AMETHYST:** Amethyst is one of our earth's most beautiful gemstones as well as the most popular. A variety of quartz, February's birthstone, has been prized for centuries by the Ancient Greeks, Egyptians, and people all across the world today. Historically, amethyst has adorned many kings, queens and bishops crowns for centuries, including Queen Elizabeth II of England.

Amethyst, a semi-precious stone, is formed under intense pressure and heat when small traces of iron are present while quartz crystals are forming, taking millions of years to transform into this beauty. The presence of manganese and iron in the quartz help to create the characteristic purple color. The deepest colors are considered the most valuable when determining amethyst's value, along with the consistency of the color throughout the geode, the size of the points within the crystal. This amethyst cluster on stand is one half of a very large amethyst geode that has been mined in Brazil. Amethyst has a hardness of 7 on the MOHS Scale of Hardness. (Scale is 1-10, with a diamond being a 10.) This means that it is difficult to scratch and why it is prevalent in the making of fine jewelry as well.