American Pearl



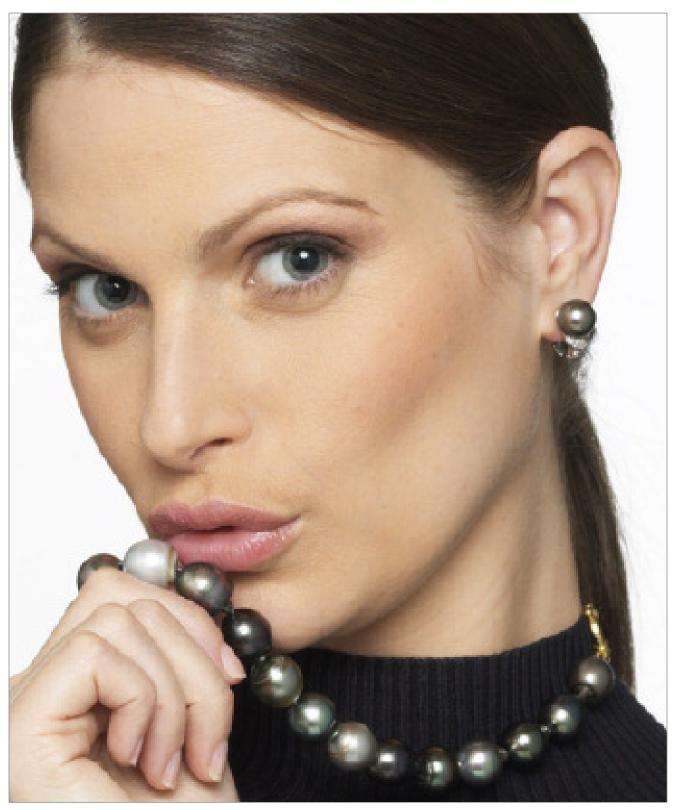
For a complete selection of pearl products, be sure to visit American Pearl's award-winning website at www.americanpearl.com 7.5 x 8mm AAA quality 16 inch cultured pearl necklace finished with American Pearl's "Figure 8" 18K yellow gold signature clasp. \$2090

* Americanpearl.com was recognized by Gemkey Magazine as one of the best websites on the internet

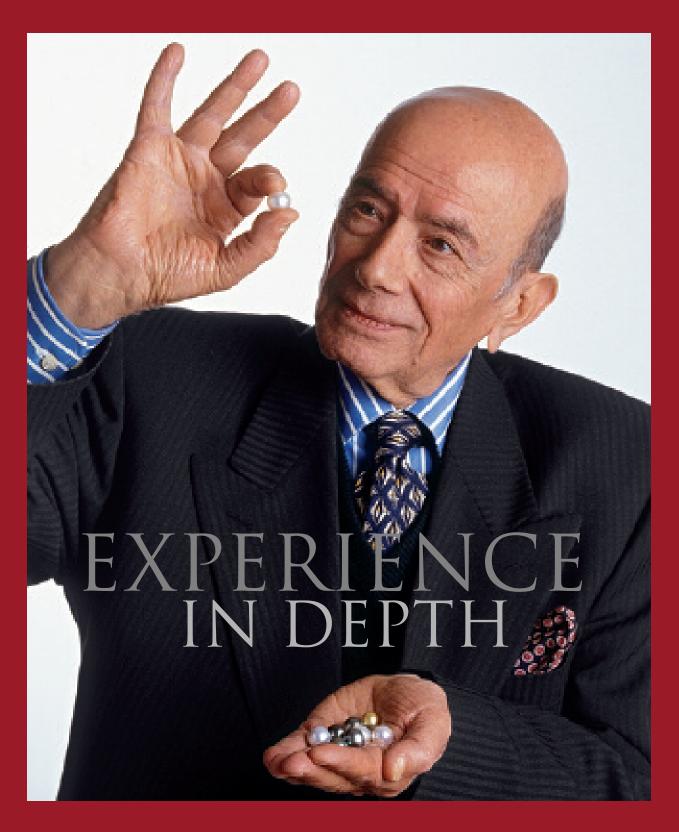
AMERICAN PEARL, 576 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 1102 NEW YORK, NY 10036

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American Pearl



CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF QUALITY, TRUST & EXPERIENCE
ESTABLISHED 1950



The history of pearls is measured in millenniums. American Pearl's, in just over half a century. Yet both are chronicles of the desire for perfection.









Pearls are not mined, cut, shaped, or redefined. They are born. Evolving naturally from a speck inside an oyster shell, they have represented the epitome of purity and sophistication since Cleopatra's time.

Our founder Charlie Bakhash embraced this eternal obsession, too. It drove him to grow American Pearl from a small midtown storefront in 1950 to a business that redefined the industry, and made him the talk of it. From Japan to Hong Kong to Australia, Tahiti and Indonesia, Charlie cultivated sources, friends, contacts, experience, knowledge and – more important – access to the finest pearls in the world.

The network of relationships he created is his precious legacy, his pearl. It remains the foundation of our business and is the reason we can promise the world's highest quality pearls at prices that are truly wholesale and because we import direct, and because we're always

guaranteed the cream of our farmers' crops: flawless, unblemished, the top 1% of the harvest.

Each pearl is uniquely beautiful in its own right. Like the women they adorn, and the places that give birth to them. Throughout these pages, you'll get a flavor of these remote regions where Charlie blazed a trail, each of which produces exquisitely distinctive variations of this marine miracle. We hope you'll also get a better sense of how the ocean's greatest treasure can satisfy a range of gifting needs. The American Pearl web site promises much more information, more products, more stories and more suggestions, as does American Diamond, the renowned gemstones side of our business, highlighted on page 36.

Together, they offer a more rewarding online jewelrybuying experience all round. We invite you to visit and browse not simply to your heart's content, but in the expectation that you'll actually find it.











BLOSSOM

THE BIRTH OF THE CULTURED PEARL



Japan, 1905. A pearl fisherman, Kokichi, opens one of his oysters to reveal a glorious, perfectly round pearl. He is exultant, for he has changed history.



AAA quality pearl necklace, 6.5 x 7mm, 18K gold, 16 inches. \$1,290.

AAA quality pearl necklace, 7 x 7.5mm, 18K gold, 16 inches. \$1,500.

AAA quality pearl necklace, 7.5 x 8mm, 18K gold, 16 inches. \$1,890.

AAA quality pearl earrings, 8mm, 14K gold, \$300.



Kokichi's cultured pearl, the result of decades of painstaking experimentation and research. Previously, pearls were made by the oyster's defense against natural irritants (a shell fragment, a parasite), releasing layer upon layer of silky "nacre" to wrap the object, hardening to a crystalline shimmer.

He has taken this a step further, introducing a foreign object into the oyster to provoke the process. Now man – and Mother Nature – can create the gem. He has created the oyster farm. From this, the seed of the Akoya cultured pearl, and an entire industry, is sown.

Akoya pearls are now an essential element in any woman's wardrobe; from the elegant single strand to the power-dressing double and the aristocratic triple. As well as glorious gift ideas, the following section shows how to build your own Akoya necklace (p.10-11), and the grading system for these classic pearls.

GIFT GUIDE

Be it a special occasion, or just a romantic surprise, pearls remain the purest expression of glamour and taste. And the quickest way to a woman's heart.

Here are some shining examples from our vast inventory, to complement her many styles and moods. Classic or contemporary, chic or casual, formal yet always in fashion. There are, of course, thousands more on our web site.

You know her. We know pearls. Together, we ought to be able to find the perfect gift. At the perfect price.



CHIC
Pearl earrings \$150.



CLASSIC
Pearl and diamond earrings \$270.



REFINED
Pearl and diamond ring \$480.



STYLISH
Pearl and diamond ring \$230.



FANCY
Pearl and diamond earrings \$580.



TIMELESS
Grey black 10.25mm Tahitian pearl and diamond ring, 18k gold.
\$1,400.











A cultured pearl and gold station necklace. Composed of eleven Japanese Akoya cultured pearls of A+ quality measuring from 7 to 7.5mm, connected with an 18K yellow or white gold chain. Length 16 inches. \$275.

A single strand cultured pearl bracelet. Composed of 6 to 6.5mm natural color Japanese Akoya cultured pearls of AAA quality, completed with an 18K yellow gold clasp. Length 7 inches. \$513.

A single strand white Australian Keshi South Sea cultured pearl necklace. Composed of 29 natural South Sea pearls measuring from 9.5 to 13mm, completed with an 18K white gold clasp. Unlike cultured pearls, Keshi pearls are natural pearls that are found. As such, they are amongst the rarest pearls in the world. Length 17 inches. \$12,000.





To order call 800.847.3275



Luster is considered the most important quality factor in pearls. Luster refers both to a pearl's brilliance — the way its surface reflects light — and its inner glow: the way it refracts light. A pearl's luster is generally evaluated in terms of "very high (AAA Quality)" to "low (A Quality)," with grades of "medium" in between. Very high-luster pearls are bright, and have a deep-seated glow. They reflect objects near them clearly. Low-luster pearls, on the other hand, have low reflective and refractive qualities. They may appear too white, or dull or chalky, and they usually have only marginal nacre thickness. Consumers should always purchase the finest quality pearls in their price range.





www.americanpearl.com To order call 800.847.3275

A single strand Japanese Akoya and black Tahitian South Sea cultured pearl necklace. Composed of 7.5 to 8mm natural-color Japanese Akoya cultured pearls of AAA quality, completed by a 10mm Starry Night pearl and diamond clasp with 6 diamonds weighing .05 carats. Length 18 inches. \$3,000. Including 10.7mm black Tahitian South Sea pearl and diamond removable

A cultured pearl and gold station necklace. Composed of eleven Japanese Akoya cultured pearls of AAA quality measuring from 8 to 8.5mm, connected with an 18K yellow or white gold chain. Length 16 inches. \$850.

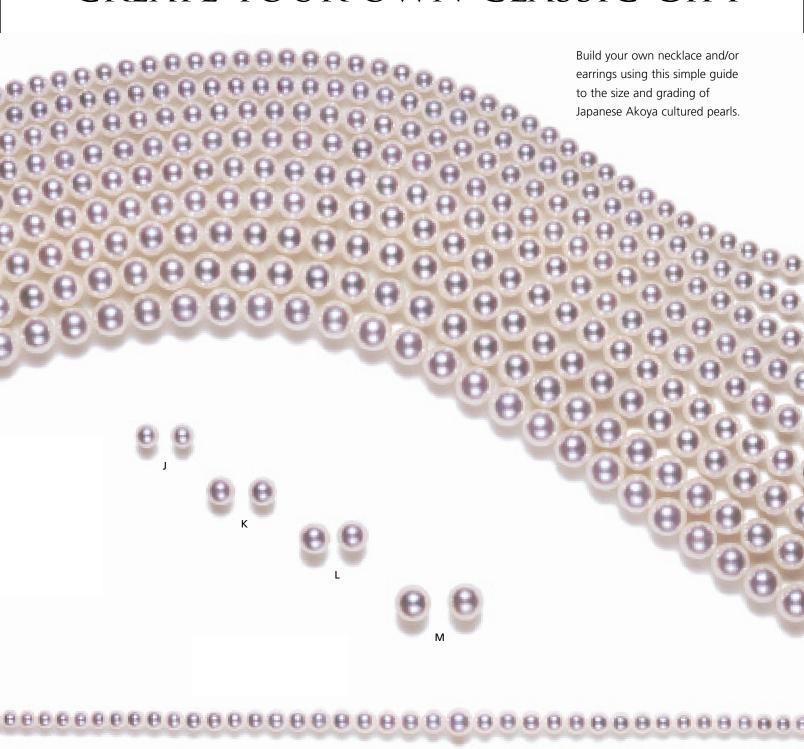
A pair of cultured pearl and diamond earrings. Each composed of a single natural color AAA quality Japanese Akoya cultured pearl measuring 8mm, artfully studded with a round brilliant cut diamond weighing .30 carats t.d.w., mounted in 18K white gold. \$850.

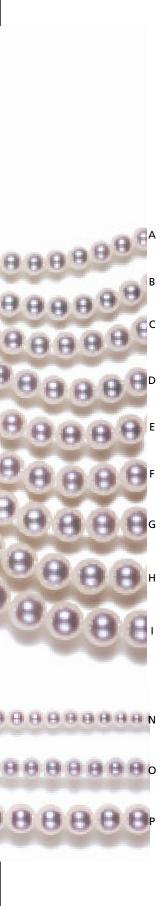






CREATE YOUR OWN CLASSIC GIFT





16 INCH SINGLE STRAND JAPANESE AKOYA CULTURED PEARL NECKLACE

	Size (mm)	Collection	AAA	AA	A+	Α
Α	5.5 x 6	N/A	\$850	\$450	\$350	\$250
В	6 x 6.5	N/A	\$950	\$750	\$550	\$450
С	6.5 x 7	\$1,500	\$1,290	\$990	\$825	\$725
D	7 x 7.5	\$1,890	\$1,500	\$1,090	\$790	\$690
E	7.5 x 8	\$2,750	\$1,890	\$1,390	\$1,190	\$990
F	8 x 8.5	\$4,100	\$2,750	\$2,200	\$1,750	\$1,490
G	8.5 x 9	\$6,000	\$4,100	\$3,300	\$2,200	\$1,750
Н	9 x 9.5	N/A	\$10,000	\$6,500	\$3,500	\$2,200
I	9.5 x 10	N/A	\$24,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$6,000

To view our selection of single strand necklaces, please visit www.americanpearl.com/necklaces.html. For double strand necklaces visit www.americanpearl.com/doublestrand.html.

JAPANESE AKOYA CULTURED PEARL STUD EARRINGS

	Size (mm)	Collection	AAA	AA	A+	Α
J	6	N/A	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75
K	7	\$300	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100
L	8	\$450	\$300	\$225	\$175	\$100
М	9	\$850	\$600	\$500	\$400	\$300

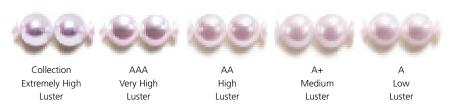
To view our selection of single strand necklaces, please visit www.americanpearl.com/pearl-earrings.html.

16 INCH GRADUATED SINGLE STRAND CULTURED PEARL NECKLACE

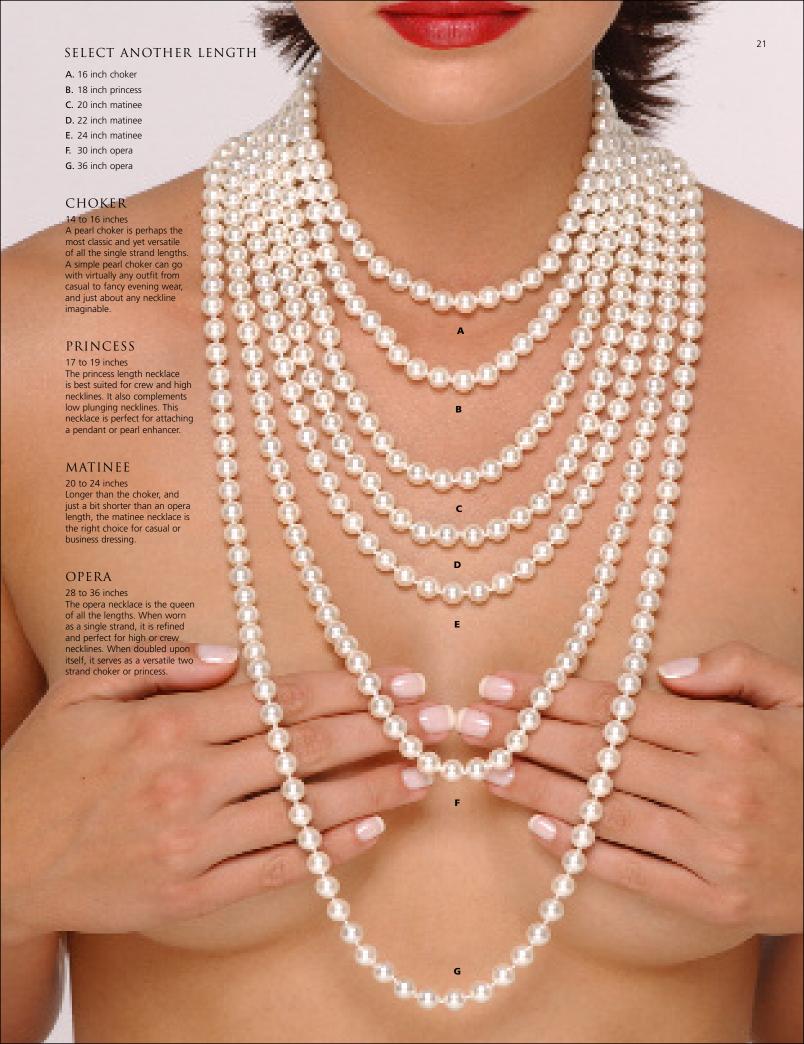
	Size (mm)	Collection	AAA	AA	A+	Α
N	3.5 x 7.5	\$1,000	\$700	\$560	\$450	\$360
0	4 x 8	\$1,850	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$800	\$640
Р	7.5 x 9	\$4,500	\$3,000	\$2,400	\$1,900	\$1,520

Necklace prices are based on 16 inch length. For longer lengths, please visit our web site at www.americanpearl.com or phone 1.800.847.3275 to speak with a pearl specialist.

JAPANESE CULTURED PEARL GRADING











Local legend has it that the Tahitian God Oro used his rainbows to visit Earth, creating mother-of-pearl and ensuring the spectrum of ocean bounty led by the glorious black pearl.

MYSTERY

TAHITI'S DARK SECRET UNLOCKED



To order call 800.847.3275

Although the truth is more prosaic (in the form of the black-lipped oyster), French Polynesia nonetheless enchanted Charlie. Not just the idyllic peace of these island paradises, but the gentleness of the people. And the quality of the gems.

Ranging from black to silvery white to gold to all the hues on a peacock's tail, South Sea pearls are larger and take longer to cultivate; up to 3 years in some cases. Accordingly, there's more time for the pearl's surface to accrue variations and flaws, details which only enhance its uniqueness and allure.

Our Tahitian black pearl necklace layouts start at 8 to 10mm, 10 to 12mm, 12mm and up, with more sizes (and hundreds of other South Sea pearls) on our web site. As you'll see there and on these pages, we bring you only the most dramatic riches from these coral crowns in the South Pacific.





A pair of Tahitian cultured pearl earrings. Each composed of a single natural color cultured pearl measuring approximately 8.5mm, mounted in 14K white gold. \$375.

A pair of Tahitian South Sea pearl and diamond earrings. Each composed of a single natural color South Sea cultured pearl measuring 10mm, artfully studded with 10 round brilliant diamonds weighing .30 carats, mounted in 18K white gold. \$2,250.

A single strand Tahitian cultured pearl necklace. Composed of 43 graduating natural color black green Tahitian cultured pearls measuring from 8 to 10mm. Completed by an 18K white gold safety clasp. Length 18 inches. See page 15 for model photograph. \$3,200.

A Tahitian pearl ring. Composed of a single natural color black Tahitian cultured pearl measuring 10.25mm mounted in 18K white gold. \$550.

A pearl and diamond ring. Composed of a single natural color black Tahitian cultured pearl measuring 10mm, set within a diamond surround. The 8 diamonds weighing .64 carats, mounted in 18K white gold. \$2,500.





A Tahitian pearl and gold station necklace. Composed of eight natural color black Tahitian south sea pearls measuring from 8mm to 8.5mm, connected with 14K white gold chain. Length 18 inches. \$1,400. 36 Inches, 16 pearls. \$2,800.

A pair of Tahitian pearl and gold drop earrings. Each composed of two natural color black Tahitian pearls measuring 8mm, mounted in a 14K white gold drop setting. \$675.









A black Tahitian south sea cultured pearl necklace measuring from 10 to 11mm, 18k gold, \$5,800.

12mm black Tahitian south sea pearl and diamond earring, 18k gold, \$2,600.













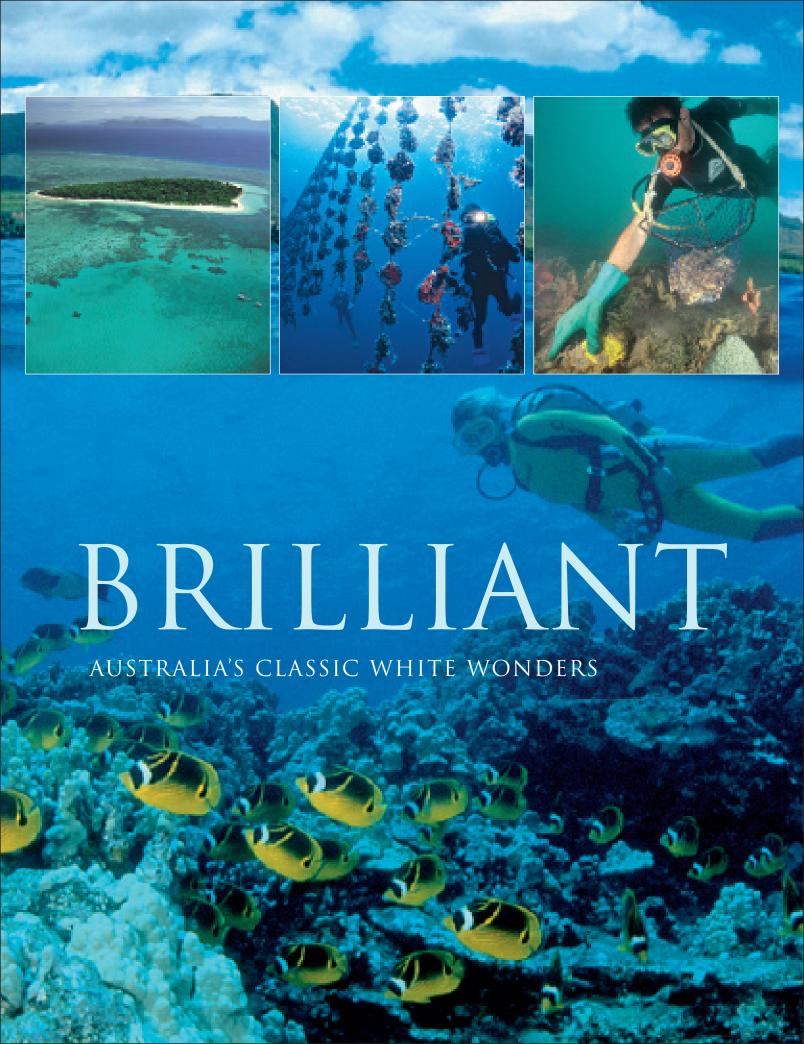


A double strand Tahitian cultured pearl necklace. Composed of 72 graduated natural multicolor black Tahitian cultured pearls measuring from 10 to 11mm, completed with an 18K white gold two row knot clasp. Length 16, 17 inches. \$7,900. Single strand. \$3,950.

A pair of Tahitian cultured pearl earclips. Each composed of a black Tahitian cultured pearl measuring 10mm, set within a pavé diamond surround, .21 carats, mounted in 18K white gold. \$1,350.

A single strand Tahitian cultured pearl necklace. Composed of graduating natural color black green Tahitian cultured pearls measuring from 8 to 10mm. Completed by an 18K white gold safety clasp. Length 18 inches. \$3,200.

A single strand Tahitian cultured pearl bracelet. Composed of graduated natural color cultured pearls measuring from 8 to 9mm, connected with an 18K white gold safety clasp. Length 7 inches. \$1,200.





A single strand South Sea cultured pearl necklace. Composed of 33 graduated cultured pearls measuring approximately from 10 to 11mm, completed by an 18K white gold safety clasp. Length 16 inches. \$8,800.

A pair of South Sea cultured pearl earrings. Each composed of a single natural color Australian cultured pearl measuring approximately 10mm, mounted in 18K white gold. \$1,800.

Thousands of years ago, the pearl was at the heart of ancient Aborigine culture. Oyster shells and pearls became tribal costume decorations, and were traded for food and tools. They also believed this natural gem had supernatural powers, and could interpret dreams.

The classic white pearl cast a powerful spell on Charlie, too. As did the bountiful North Australian coastline, home to the Silver Lip Oyster, which produces this larger, rounder pearl with a rich satiny finish in white, silver or cream.

Considered the "Rolls Royce" of cultivated pearls, we are driven to present these exquisite delights from down under to the world over. As ever, there are many, many more Australian and other South Sea pearl gift ideas on our web site.















GLOW

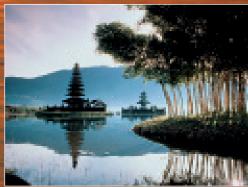
CAPTURING INDONESIA'S GOLDEN GIFTS



During his adventures in this archipelago of jigsaw coastlines and caressing currents, the Indonesian golden pearl became Charlie's personal favorite. Conceived from the vivid golden mantle tissue on the rim of the Pinctada Maxima oyster's mother-of-pearl, its breathtaking appearance makes it the rarest of all pearls.







A golden South Sea cultured pearl pendant necklace. Composed of 3 graduating natural color golden South Sea cultured pearls measuring 10, 11 and 12mm, completed with an 18K yellow gold chain. Length 18 inches. \$4,800.



Indonesia also produces marvelous champagnecolored pearls, but those perfect golden spheres hold a particular place in the hearts of pearl aficionados.

Every five years we meet our Indonesian farmers, some of whom we've known since they were children, to celebrate

A single strand golden South Sea cultured pearl necklace. Composed of graduating natural color golden South Sea cultured pearls measuring from 10 to 12mm, completed with a 10mm 18K yellow gold pavé-set ball clasp with diamonds weighing 1.1 carats t.d.w. Length 16 inches. \$9,400.

A golden South Sea cultured pearl ring. Composed of a single natural color cultured pearl measuring approximately 10mm, mounted in 18K yellow gold. \$1,800. our friendship and the phenomenal quality of their latest harvest.

Take a look at the fruits of their labors on these pages, and go online for further wonders from the South Seas. Then marvel how precious few companies can bring you such perfection and value.

A pair of golden cultured pearl earrings. Each composed of a single natural color golden Indonesian South Sea cultured pearl measuring 10mm, mounted in18K yellow gold. \$1,800.



www.americanpearl.com
To order call 800.847.3275



