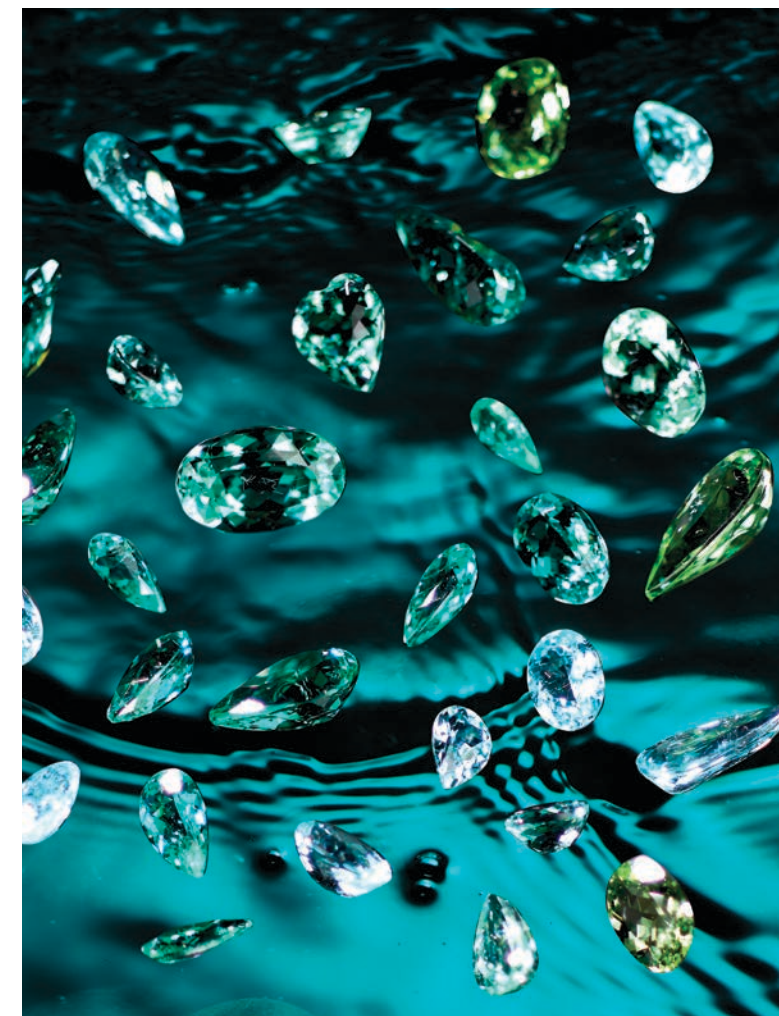




Gems of Note ring featuring a 9.73-carat Paraiba and white diamonds in platinum. Right: Loose Paraiba tourmalines in varying shades, available through Gems of Note in Naples.

FORM  
BY BETH BERNSTEIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BRIDGES ADERHOLD  
STYLIST ANNA RUIZ

COVETED  
TOURMALINE  
BRILLIANT  
OF THE  
IN ONE



PARAIBA  
CAPTURES THE  
SHADES  
GULF  
STONE.

I N T O U T H E  
B L U E





From left: Graziela ring featuring Paraiba and white diamonds in 18-carat white gold; Graziela Paraiba Obsession convertible earrings and necklace featuring Paraiba and white diamonds in 18-carat white gold; available at Marissa Collections in Naples.





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\*Total of 550 carats of Gem Partha and 100 carats of diamonds

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Brazilian Paraibas—especially the original Heitoritas ones mined by Heitor Dimas Barbosa in the '80s—are the most valuable for their scarcity and neon-blue hue.



From the breathtaking clarity of the Mediterranean Sea to the prismatic vibrancy of the Gulf, these qualities are well captured by the exuberant aquatic blues and greens of Paraiba tourmaline. One of today's most desired and rarest gemstones seems lit from within as it glows with electric energy that comes from the presence of copper and manganese.

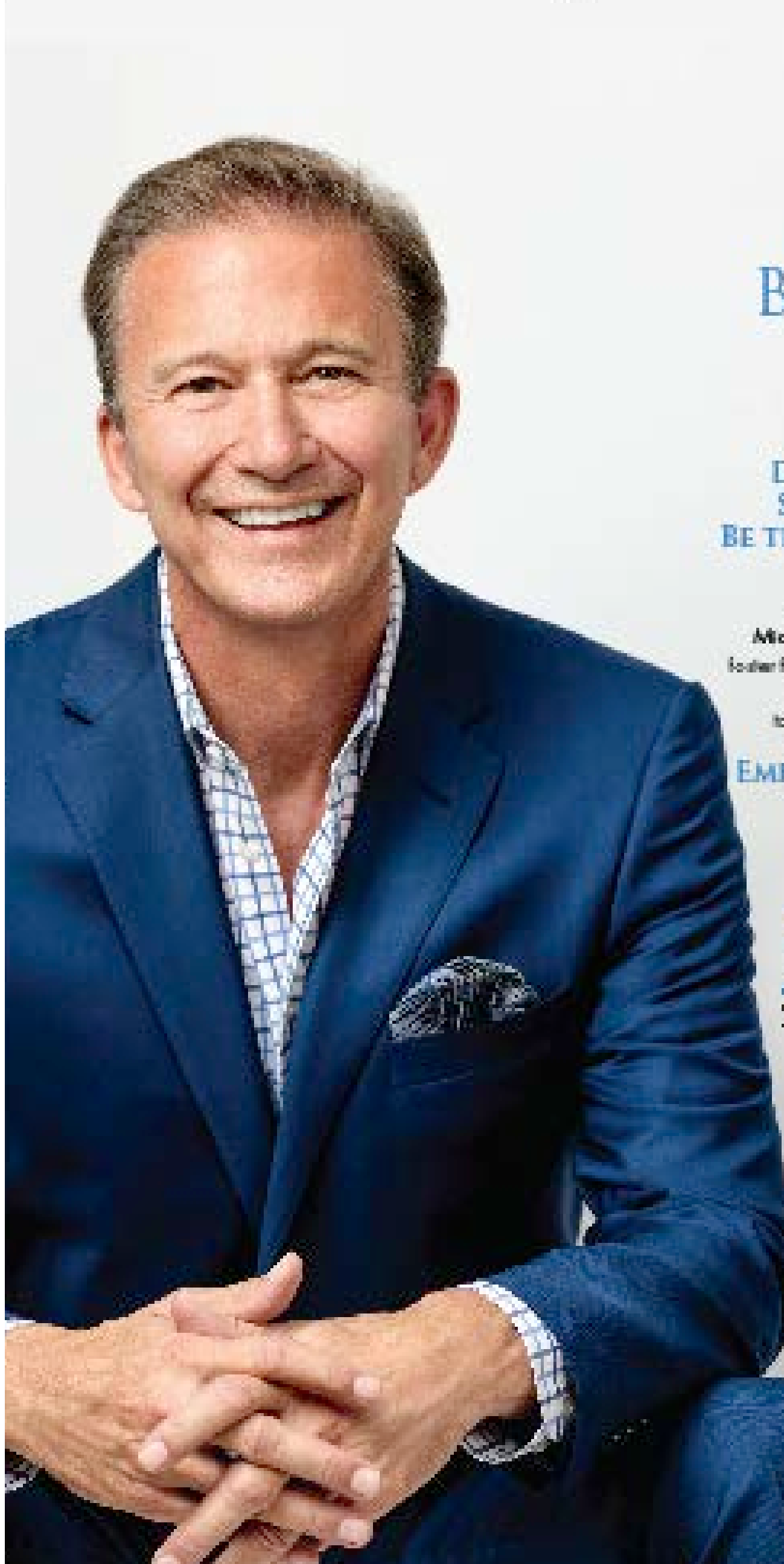
Discovered in the 1980s by gem miner Heitor Dimas Barbosa and named after the Brazilian state where it was found, Paraiba is rare—it's reported that one is mined for every 10,000 diamonds. Large stones (which are scarcely found these days) can go for hundreds of thousands of dollars per carat. And while the shimmering beauty is also mined in Mozambique and Nigeria, the ones with the highest value come from Brazil, where the mines are nearly depleted, adding to the allure. "The stones that came out of Brazil originally have a specific deep blue tone, hue and saturation," says Kevin Ferreira, a gemologist whose family has owned Paraiba mines in Brazil and Africa for more than two decades.

Take the rarity of Paraiba up another notch and you're talking about Heitoritas, the original stones

mined in the '80s and named for their discoverer. "What's left is very, very few," says Ferreira, who distributes colored gemstones through Gems of Notes in Naples. "And those stones tell a story that corresponds to the specific depth and time when they were discovered—a time in history when the properties were present in the specific place to create that stone. The original stuff, it's priceless," he says.

Whether Brazilian or African, major jewelry houses have been clamoring for the electric-colored gems. Dior, Gucci and Harry Winston have all featured Paraibas in recent high jewelry collections. Bulgari's first Colour Journeys collection, for instance, focuses on Paraibas in various shades, and Chopard's recent Precious Lace necklace dazzles, with its 34.63-carat, Mozambique-sourced Paraiba. Independent designers also favor the stone: Arunashi, Ana Khouri, Graziela and VRAM are all designing brilliant pieces that place the gem front and center.

Paraiba, which reflects the hues of local waters, is the perfect nod to our coastal haven, prompting us to dub the gem the Heart of the Gulf. 💎




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Arunashi sugarloaf cabochon Paraiba ring featuring a 27.08-carat Brazilian Paraiba, cacholong opal and white diamonds in titanium, available through Marissa Collections in Naples. The size and origin of the stone, hailing from the Batalha mine where Paraibas were discovered, makes it an exceptionally rare find.



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Arunashi Paraiba Tourmaline Snake necklace featuring Mozambique Paraibas with carbon fiber, titanium and 18-karat gold, available through Marissa Collections in Naples.



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