

What to invest in for 2020: from £2.5m hypercars to diving watches and pink diamonds



Currently, pink diamonds are outperforming all major equity markets

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Our experts let us know what they have their eye on this year, from one of the most sought-after cars of all time to the item outperforming all other equity markets

Jewellery: pink diamonds

Rio Tinto's Argyle mine in Western Australia, which is estimated to produce 90 per cent of the world's supply of gem-quality pink and red diamonds, is set to close at the end of 2020, as its supplies have dwindled to the point of no longer being commercially viable.

Pink diamonds are already astonishingly rare: of the two million carats of diamonds the Argyle mine produces every year, less than 0.01% are gem-quality pinks. The mine's closure means the finite number of these stones that exist on the market will become even more sought-after - and expensive.

For the last 35 years, the Argyle mine has auctioned its highest quality pink diamonds - usually around 50 to 60 small stones - in the annual Argyle Tender, with a select group of approved bidders invited to submit sealed bids. Since the year 2000, the value of pink diamonds sold at the Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender has appreciated by more than 500 per cent, outperforming all major equity markets.

Meanwhile, pink diamonds sold at public auctions have also seen huge hikes. Research from the Fancy Colour Research Foundation, which tracks the prices of fancy coloured diamonds sold at auction, shows that pinks have outperformed all other colours, increasing by 366 per cent between 2005 and 2019 - an average of more than 25 per cent per year.



The value of pink diamonds sold at the Argyle Pink Diamonds Tender has appreciated by more than 500 per cent since 2000

In 1990, a 32.24ct Fancy Light pink diamond sold at Christie's for \$6.4 million (\$591,000 per carat). Now, the record stands at \$2.6 million per carat - set by the \$50 million, 18.96ct Pink Legacy diamond in 2018, while the most expensive

diamond ever sold is also a pink: the CTF Pink Star, which reached \$71.2 million in 2017.

“Fancy colour diamonds are a good outlet for long-term wealth preservation, and when a whole colour subcategory is about to disappear from the face of the earth, an investment prospect is even more relevant,” says Miri Chen, CEO of the Fancy Colour Research Foundation.

“Pink diamonds from the Argyle mine are already traded at a very high price per carat and their value will probably rise significantly over the next decade. Their disappearance will be greatly felt in the jewellery landscape.”

The 2020 Argyle Pink Diamond Tender will be the last: the rare just got even rarer. So don't be surprised to see more record-breaking pink diamonds hit the auction block in 2020, as wealthy collectors vie for a piece of jewellery history. Pink diamonds don't come cheap, but they're unlikely to get any cheaper - so if you have the funds to invest, now might just be the right time. *Sarah Royce-Greensill, Jewellery Editor*

Motoring: Aston Martin Valkyrie

It's the rollercoaster 'Ride of the Valkyrie' - or how to lay your hands on the most sought-after Aston Martin of all time.

Aston's forthcoming hypercar promises F1 performance on the road and will be restricted to just 150 examples, plus 25 track-only AMR Pro cars.

Deep pockets simply aren't enough to secure a build slot; would-be buyers have to pass a lengthy application process too. A modest collection of past and present Aston Martins probably wouldn't go amiss either.



The Valkyrie is the most sought-after Aston Martin of all time CREDIT: DEAN SMITH
The first deliveries are expected by the end of 2020 and although the manufacturer will frown with disapproval, some Valkyries are likely to slip onto the re-sale market with a price premium.

How much? Not even James Bond's salary would cover the anticipated £2.5 million required but expect no shortage of buyers because hypercars like this, as desirable as they might be, may not be around much longer.

The 6.5-litre V12 engine has been developed by Cosworth and features an electric motor with energy recovery system, just like Formula One. Pumping out 1,160 bhp, the Valkyrie isn't fuel efficient but scorches along at Warp Factor 9.

Other hypercars to blow your bonus on in 2020 include the 300 mph Koenigsegg Jesko, the Lotus Evija and the Mercedes-AMG Project One, which really is as close as it gets to Lewis Hamilton's championship-winning racer. *Jeremy Taylor, motoring expert*

Wine: Barolo 2016

2016 was a good year for many European fine wine areas: it was excellent in Bordeaux, beautiful in Tuscany and a cracker of a year for vintage ports. It was also exceptional in Piedmont, the region in north-west Italy where Barolo is made – with many describing 2016 as “the vintage of a generation.”

The vineyards of Piedmont, Italy CREDIT: ROSTISLAV GLINSKY/GETTY

Barolo has a minimum ageing requirement of 38 months from 1 November from the year of the harvest, meaning that Barolo 2016 can only be released from 1 January 2020.

The system for releasing and selling Barolo isn't as organised as the en primeur systems for Burgundy and Bordeaux, so expect the wines to drip onto the market across the next few months or even year, as and when the producer and his importer feel like it.

Barolo is made in small quantities. Depending on the broker or merchant, some of the best wines will have already been allocated in advance. So snap it up. No wine is better with white truffle shaved over fresh pasta or onto a fried egg. *Victoria Moore, wine expert*

Property: pre-Brexit prime London

It's the time to invest in prime London, with the market 15-20% down on its 2015 peak following stamp duty reforms and years of Brexit uncertainty. But most prime London agents believe the market is on the turn and pent-up demand is waiting to pounce.

Twenty Grosvenor square

Look for a branded residence in a leading super-prime central London development such as Clivedale London's Mayfair Park Residences or Finchatton's Twenty Grosvenor Square, whose residences costing from £17.5m are serviced by Four Seasons.

Such branded residences are limited editions, with the feel of the most exclusive private member's clubs. Once sold, they are unlikely to come back on the market any time soon. *Zoe Dare Hall, property expert*

Watches: vintage Tudor

It's never easy to recommend a 'sure thing' in terms of watch investment, but right now you can't go too far wrong with Tudor.

While vintage Rolex Submariners continue to fetch record-breaking prices at auction, and with the waiting list for new models lengthening all the time, interest in Rolex's sibling brand Tudor is definitely on the rise.

A 1970 Tudor Snowflake ref. 7021/0. It sold for \$17,500 at Phillips New York at the "Game Changers" auction CREDIT: PHILLIPS

New limited-edition and limited-production pieces, such as the Black Bay Harrods edition and 2019's Black Bay Chrono Dark already command prices well above retail on the pre-owned market. However, it is the vintage military diving pieces that are making the biggest noise. While some marques already command top dollar, others are still relatively affordable, and these pieces are sure to rise in value over the coming years.

In Phillips New York December auction, a vintage Rolex Sub sold for \$218,000 (approx. £163,500), while a model from 2008 fetched \$30,000 (approx. £22,500). A 1970 Tudor dive watch, on the other hand, hammered at \$17,500 (approx. £13,100).

Although this was above its high estimate, it was still comparatively affordable and, as the watches become more collectible with fewer models come to market, the prices will only go one way. *Tracey Llewellyn, Watches Editor*

Do you have plans to invest in anything this year? Let us know in the comments section below.

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