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STAR OF THE RAINBOW

PAUL WILD OHG 3.0/ D05

It's flamboyant – and equally elegant. Its discovery in 1987 closed the gap between green and blue, and made the tourmaline a real stone of the rainbow, as people call it. The Paraiba tourmaline is a star – rarer than diamonds and appropriately valuable.

Markus Paul Wild, CEO of Paul Wild in Idar-Oberstein, recognised the importance of the new gemstone early on: since 1996, his company has been managing a mine in the Brazilian state of Paraiba. When the Paraiba tourmaline was also discovered in Mozambique in 2009, this top supplier opened another mine there.

"Now, we could find truly remarkable stones again", says Wild. "This is why the Paraiba tourmaline is featured this year in our series 'The very best from our own mines!'"

At Baselworld, this long-established enterprise is presenting the Paraiba as gem and collectors' stones in all shapes and sizes up to 150 carat. "Because it's so rare, the Paraiba is both an extravagant and secure investment", explains Wild. The faceted gemstones are classics. They include the oval stone in fantastic ocean turquoise that weighs almost 57 carats.

The almost unreal, strongly luminous neon green, blue and turquoise of the Paraiba tourmaline create sensational effects. Motivation for the highly-qualified specialists at Paul Wild to work the valuable stones in continuously different ways.

"Thalassa's necklace", named after the Greek sea goddess, is a unique highlight: 17 delicate fish, starfish, mussels and snails gleam in all Paraiba shades; some even exhibit two colours.

Clear stones cut into cabochons are distinctive: their very special depth is reminiscent of tropical oceans. As "Characters", the Paraiba tourmalines reveal a fascinating aura: Markus Wild, a qualified gemstone cutter, developed this cut in 2012: Characters retain the natural shape of the raw stone. Edges are carefully smoothed, indentations and protrusions highly polished. And so, absolute unique pieces come into being. "Coloured gemstones are the most wonderful gift of nature", according to Wild: "Every 'Character' is unique – just like the people who wear these stones."

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01 All turquoise shades in the world are reflected in the facets of this oval 57-carat gemstone **02 Paraiba from Paraiba:** The pear-cut stone shows a rich neon turquoise colour **03 A brilliant trilliant:** Innumerable facets let the blue-green of this 16-carat gleam **04 141 carats, not only for mermaids:** 17 extremely "alive" engravings form "Thalassa's necklace" **05 Markus Paul Wild,** CEO of Paul Wild

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