



# GUIDE TO PEARLS

## PEARL SHAPES



### Round

A perfect spherical shape is considered to be the most valuable shape.



### Semi-Baroque

Usually symmetrical pearls, either oval in shape, or a tear drop shape.



### Circle

A unique, natural phenomenon characterised by multiple circular rings.



### Button

Resembling a round pearl except this type has a flat side and a high dome.



### Baroque

An asymmetrical pearl that has uneven wrinkled surfaces.



### Keshi

These don't contain a nucleus & come in a variety of thin flake-like shapes.



### Mabe

A nucleus glued to the side of the shell to create a half pearl.

## ABROLHOS ISLAND PEARLS

**Abrolhos Island Pearls** are the most unique pearls in the world. Home grown in our own pearl farm on the pristine Abrolhos Islands, Western Australia, our pearls are beautiful in their lustre, shapes and colours. They are most popular for their unique natural beauty and are grown in four varieties: Abrolhos Island Black Pearl (Pinctada Margaritifera), Abrolhos Island Black Pearl Mabe (Pinctada Margaritifera), Abrolhos Island Akoya Pearl (Pinctada Fucata), Abrolhos Island Penguin Mabe (Pteria Penguin).

## SOURCED PEARLS FROM THE BEST FARMS IN THE WORLD

**Akoya Cultured Pearls** are the most familiar and oldest type of saltwater cultured pearl. It was this species of pearl oyster that the culturing method was developed in early in the 1900's in Japan. Many customers think of white or cream coloured Akoyas as the classic pearl used for jewellery, especially single-strand necklaces and stud earrings. Japan and Australia are renowned for producing high quality Akoya cultured pearls.

**South Sea Cultured Pearls** Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines are leading sources of these saltwater cultured pearls. South Sea cultured pearls can be white to silver or golden, depending on the genetics of the oyster and the environment it grows in. Their large size and thick nacre, due to a long growth period, plus their limited critical growing conditions are all factors contributing to their value.

**Tahitian Cultured Pearls** are cultivated primarily around the islands of French Polynesia (the most familiar of these is Tahiti). These saltwater cultured pearls, sometimes referred to as black pearls, have a wide colour range. They might be grey, black or brown, and they can have blue, green, purple or pink overtones.

**Freshwater Cultured Pearls** are very popular due to their remarkable range of sizes, shapes and colours (infused with dye). They are usually cultured in freshwater lakes and ponds, often with many pearls grown in one mussel. China is the leading source for freshwater cultured pearls.

UNIQUE HAND-PICKED & CAREFULLY SELECTED PEARLS. ENSURING EXCELLENCE OF QUALITY

As each pearl is unique, the images shown are a representation of the range only and colour will vary within the categories.

# LATITUDE

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