

from pink... to PEARLS

IN MID-JANUARY, AMID TEPID TEMPERATURES ATYPICAL of northeast Italy, Vicenza served as the perfect backdrop for rose to bloom—rose gold, that is. The soft metal shade signals a new take on gentle sophistication, with the overall look frequently further softened with a satin finish. When gems are added to a satin-finished rose gold piece, the stone palette, too, is usually soft and *delicato*, featuring gems for tone-on-tone appeal.

To that end, gems that are pink or brown are most prevalent. Popular pinks include rubellite, sapphire, rose quartz, opal, and mother-of-

pearl. In browns, smoky quartz and chocolate diamonds are everywhere and, in some cases, tiger's-eye. Peach moonstone is looking pretty, too, set in rose gold, as are soft whites like white opal and white agate. But for the really fashion directional? Amethyst—light or dark—set in rose gold (which we'll be seeing more of as the year continues to unfold).

When rose gold mixes with another colored gold, the freshest combo is rose and yellow, especially a green yellow gold. With this whole "warming trend" so widespread in Italy's jew-

elry community, even the ultra-hip Fibo Steel, who doesn't work in gold, has gotten into the act with their new collection, "Metamorfosi," which entwines the company's signature steel with—for the first time—copper.

PEARLS-PLUS-COLOR

Simultaneously, as rose fever heats up, Italians take the trend toward soft and romantic and kick it up a notch, by combining the luster of pearls with color. Pearls, both South Sea and larger cultured varieties, glow every-

where, and the most directional Italian houses mix them with colored gemstones—most faceted, and in all shapes, with marquises and ovals, in particular.

A common way of combining the pearls and color is in tone-on-tone looks, just as they're doing with the rose gold. Therefore, if, for example, a necklace has pink pearls, there's a good chance that it also features some pink, purple, or red gems. Speaking of necklaces, this year in Italy, they are so, so long—not a link less than 36 to 40 inches.

Salvini rose gold heart



Nanis "Slip" pink mother-of-pearl necklace



Damiani "Sophia" collection pink gold and diamond earrings and pendant



Antonini "Biarritz" collection earrings in pink gold with peach moonstone



Elini pendant in rose gold, white gold, and diamonds



Valente "Athena" collection pink gold and sapphire earrings



Calgario sterling silver and pearl necklace



Roberto Coin rose gold "Gekko" bangle



Utopia bracelet with gemstones and South Sea cultured pearls