

Rio Tinto announces winners of its Champagne Diamond Design Competition

Rio Tinto recently announced winners in the four categories of its 2009 Champagne Diamond Competition. Rio Tinto Diamonds' elite panel of judges from the fashion and jewelry industries reviewed numerous designs from across the US and awarded prizes.

The overall winner, the "Champagne Visionary," was awarded to Evelyn Huang of Los Angeles-based evelynH. Jewelry Inc. for her "Bulles de Champagne Collier (Champagne Bubbles Necklace)." Her objective was to create a modern piece that captures the elation, joy, and spirit of champagne diamonds inspired by the French period of Rococo design.

The second place honor of "Champagne Wishes" was awarded to Joana Miranda for her Champagne diamond and pearl drop earrings. The "Champagne Tango Earrings," inspired by the designer's love of movement and tango, feature champagne diamonds in graduated colors. The third



Evelyn Huang, the overall winner of Rio Tinto's 2009 Champagne Diamond Competition

place winner is Graham Edney, who created a set of butterfly drop earrings. Fourth place was awarded to Vincent Bisazza on behalf of Charles Koll Jewellers in San Diego, CA for his "Flute" brooch.

The judging panel also referred to the important role of contrasting color settings in bringing a champagne diamond jewelry piece to life. "In the case of champagne diamonds from the Argyle diamond mine the range of total color from the lightest of champagnes hues through to deep cognac tones provides a wonderful palette for a designer," said Fern Mallis, one of the judges and vice president of marketing for International Management Group models and IMG fashion.

The four winning designers will have many opportunities for significant exposure to the US jewelry industry, including participation in nation-wide retailer events, Rio Tinto said.



First place Champagne Visionary – Bulles de Champagne Collier (Champagne Bubbles Necklace) was awarded to Evelyn Huang