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# 5 Gold Jewels I Wish I'd Bought at VicenzaOro January 2019

February 6, 2019 by [MELISSA ROSE BERNARDO \(HTTPS://WWW.JCKONLINE.COM/WRITER/MELISSA-ROSE-BERNARDO/\)](https://www.jckonline.com/writer/melissa-rose-bernardo/)

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I saw so much amazing gold jewelry at the 2019 VicenzaOro show in January—not a huge surprise, considering Italians are renowned for their gold jewelry (and, hello, gold—oro—is part of the show's name!).

Somehow I managed to restrain myself and refrain from buying any jewelry at the show (can you believe it?). But if I had an unlimited budget, these are the gold pieces I would have snapped up. Hey, a girl can dream!



Normally, I am not one for stretchy bracelets—they're supposed to be comfortable, but they never really are—but Fope's Flex'it design made me a convert. (The secret: gold springs hidden between the links.) This piece from the Eka Anniversario collection—feting Fope's 90th year—is just the right width, and the diamond-dotted white gold rondel provides such a cool contrast.

Top and above: Flex'it bracelet in 18k gold with 0.19 ct. t.w. diamonds, €7,020 (\$8,025); Fope (<https://www.fope.com/en-us/?store=en-us>)



This was my first brush with Bee Goddess, and I was instantly smitten. The Istanbul-based brand is built on a collection of symbols and sacred objects; but if talismanic jewelry isn't your thing, just think of their inspirations as stars or flowers. I love the shade of green—so bright and cheery, don't you think?—and the bee instantly made me think of *Jesus Christ Superstar's* peppy "What's the Buzz" ("What's the buzz? Tell me what's a-happenin' ")...which I haven't been able to get out of my head since.

14k rose gold ring with 2.7 cts. t.w. emeralds and 0.27 ct. t.w. diamonds, £4,940 (\$6,408); **Bee Goddess** (<https://www.beegoddess.com/>).



How does Annamaria Cammilli create such soft, fluid-looking pieces? They all have this gorgeous, velvety matte finish. Plus: The brand boasts *eight* of its own gold alloys: Yellow Sunrise, Yellow Bamboo, Orange Apricot, Pink Champagne, Black Lava, White Ice, Beige Natural, and (the newest) Chocolate Brown. Even though I'm usually a yellow gold girl, I found myself really loving the Orange Apricot—a not-quite-rose gold, yellow-with-a-touch-of-blush hue.

Grace collection ring in 18k Orange Apricot gold with diamonds, \$2,400; **Annamaria Cammilli** (<https://www.annamariacammilli.com/index.php>)



Everything at the Vendorafa booth was so amazingly wearable, from its

dynamic Dune designs to its high-polish, snake-inspired Anaconda collection. And the new sleek, hammered Hula Hoop pieces—edged with pavé diamonds—are no exception. This brand just *knows* how to do big and bold gold.

Hula Hoop bangles in 18k yellow and rose gold with diamonds; \$6,200–\$10,280; **Vendorafa** ([http://www.vendorafa.net/index\\_en.html](http://www.vendorafa.net/index_en.html))



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# 5 Things I Learned at VicenzaOro January 2019

January 22, 2019 by [MELISSA ROSE BERNARDO \(HTTPS://WWW.JCKONLINE.COM/WRITER/MELISSA-ROSE-BERNARDO/\)](https://www.jckonline.com/writer/melissa-rose-bernardo/)

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*Buonigiorno* from Italy, where I just made my first visit to the VicenzaOro show (still running **through Jan. 23** (<https://www.vicenzaoro.com/it/>)). Thanks to the Italian Exhibition Group, I was fortunate enough to be part of an international hosted press delegation, and I don't think it's the prosecco talking when I say that this show is *fantastico* in every way. (But let's not discount the importance of a periodic glass of prosecco. And when I say periodic, I mean at lunch, while you're at a booth admiring jewelry, at the end of the day in an Aperol Spritz....) Thanks to the American and British journalists for making the trip so much fun and to the exhibitors who were so welcoming and friendly. Watch this space for more coverage soon, but in the meantime, here are just a few things I learned from my first VO.



## 1. Emeralds are still in.

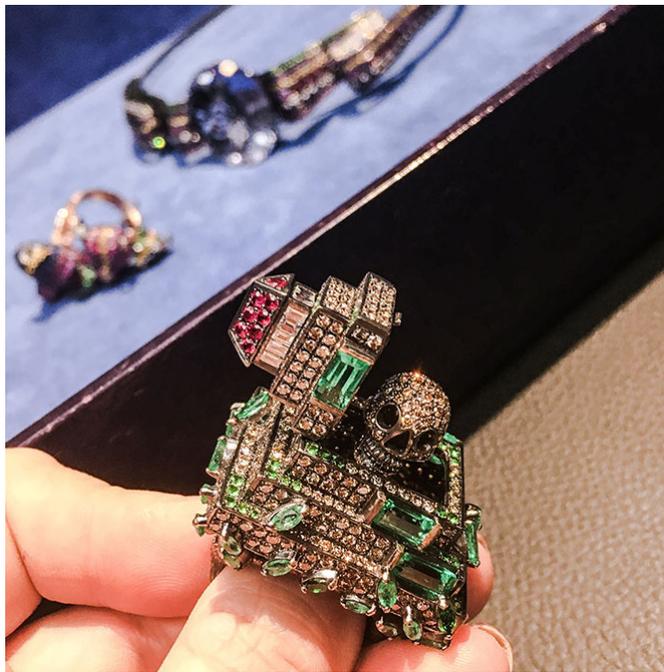
Surprise, surprise, right? I thought another colored stone might be the star at VO. But it's time to just give in already! Though **Picchiotti** (<http://www.picchiotti.it/ENG/index.php>) had tons of diamonds (and sapphires and rubies) in its Xpandable line, the emeralds were definitely the stars. And when I asked **Nikos Koulis** (<https://nikoskoulis.gr/>) to point out his favorite piece in his booth, the Greek designer didn't hesitate for one minute. He then turned and pointed to a Deco-inspired emerald, diamond, and translucent enamel necklace (pictured at top).



Missed Eva Nueva at VicenzaOro? See the designer in Las Vegas at *Prestige in Luxury*.

## 2. It's never too early to start thinking about summer.

Bright ocean blue and sun-kissed coral—what I've come to consider the unofficial Italian colors—were all over the displays. It may be 40 degrees in Vicenza (or 6 in New York City...sorry, everyone!), but designers—such as Italy's **Eva Nueva** (<http://www.evaneuva.it/index.html>)—clearly had warm weather on the brain.



*When you open the top of Lydia Courteille's pyramid ring, surprise! That little guy pops out.*

### 3. It pays to travel.

In 2016, Paris-based designer **Lydia Courteille** (<https://www.lydiacourteille.com/>) took us to Ethiopia with her green tourmaline- and tsavorite-heavy Queen of Sheba collection. Now, she's ventured to Guatemala with Nuevo Mundo, an insanely colorful tribute to a recent three-week trip there. Inspired by Mayan pyramids, masks, and fabrics, the pieces are simultaneously playful and awe-inspiring.



*These silver and enamel rings by Alasia Gioielli are all handmade. The letters and flowers are also hand-drawn!*

### 4. Think about how much time you need to walk the show—then add a day.

Even though my feet were killing me (and I was wearing comfortable shoes, I promise!), I could have used at least another day or two to simply wander the halls of the show. I found Italian designer **Alasia Gioielli** (<http://www.alasia.eu/>) when I was wandering aimlessly around Hall 5—and I'm so glad I did. Her enamel rings are so bright and cheerful!



I was in JAR heaven at the Museo del Gioiello.

5. Get thee to the jewelry museum.

The Museo del Gioiello (https://www.museodelgioiello.it/en/), located inside the stunningly beautiful Basilica Palladiana, is an incredible sight to behold—and even if you're not in Italy for VicenzaOro, it's worth a trip to Vicenza (which is only a 45-minute or so drive from Venice). It has the most extensive collection of JAR pieces I've ever seen outside of his Met exhibit in 2013 (https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2013/jewels-by-jar). And it was so cool to see works by modern masters such as Taffin (https://www.taffin.com/) and Oscar Heyman (https://www.oscarheyman.com/). If you're a jewelry lover, it's a must-visit.

(All photos courtesy of Melissa Bernardo)



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HEADLINES

# Italy's VicenzaOro Officially Opens the 2019 Buying Season

Buyers from over 130 countries attended.



Published 5 days ago on February 1, 2019  
By **Barbara Palumbo**



Vendorafa Hula Hoop Collection



Monica Rich Kosann Locket Collection

**W**HILE MOST RETAIL JEWELERS around the world are still packing away their holiday decorations and going over their inventories, a city in northeast Italy (largely known outside of the jewelry world for its steel production, textile factories and agricultural impact) starts getting ready to welcome the jewelry industry's elite brands, most successful retailers, and respected members of the international press. Vicenza, despite sometimes being confused by Americans with Venezia (Venice) and Valenza, Italy, is actually one of the country's wealthiest cities. With a town center that reflects its Renaissance-era history, including 23 buildings designed by famed Italian architect Andrea Palladio, Vicenza offers much in the way of culture, food and sights, which are merely added bonuses for those who have traveled to see what the area has become known for: its jewelry.

The January edition of the VicenzaOro Jewellery Boutique Show is the first major jewelry trade show of the year, every year. Buyers are treated to a visual smorgasbord that includes finished high jewelry, fashion jewelry, contemporary jewelry, loose diamonds and gems, watches, tools, mountings, findings and jewelry equipment. There are also numerous seminars, classes and panels covering topics from sustainable practices to buying trends to famous emeralds throughout history and much more. On top of all of that, there are the small perks that often get overlooked at some of the other major trade fairs. Things like *real Wi-Fi* (are you listening to this, Baselworld?), nightly cocktail gatherings and a free playroom for children



Lydia Courtielle Nuevo-Mundo Piece

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ages 3 and up. Many members of the press (including yours truly) are hosted guests of the show, meaning that our transportation, meals and museum tours (of which there are several) are taken care of, making our trip to the city even more enjoyable.

January's edition of the fair was made particularly exciting with the introduction of a handful of new exhibitors to the show's "Design Room," including American jewelry designer Monica Rich Kosann, who showcased her popular locket collection, as well as Parisian designer Lydia Courteille, who brought along pieces from her Nuevo Mundo collection, which was inspired by her travels to Guatemala. Courteille uses a variety of brightly colored gemstones to replicate the embroidered fabric patterns of the Guatemalan culture in pieces like her Worry Doll ring, which was a show-stopping adornment that included a large, pear-shaped maxixe blue beryl. Also exhibiting at the fair was Italian brand Picchiotti, which recently hired Mark Mazzaresse – former president of Mazzaresse Fine Jewelry near Kansas City – to expand the reach of its U.S. sales team. And the always exciting Vendorafa went for a playful theme this year with pieces from its new Hula Hoop collection as well as editions to the Anaconda and Dune collections.

With buyers attending the fair from over 130 countries, including from the U.S. (shout out to Scott Saunders of London Jewelers, whom I briefly saw as we headed into the fair), there were not many sections of the show floor that weren't – at times – jam-packed with people. Seminars were often standing-room only, and the multiple cafes throughout the show saw huge lines at lunch hour as well as at "Aperitivo time." While that might seem nerve-racking to some, in the grand scheme of things, it's all good news for those of us in the business, because a busy show is a sign that the jewelry industry is alive, well and even possibly thriving.

The VicenzaOro Jewellery Boutique Show does a lot of things the right way, and with some trade fairs suffering from recent exhibitor departures, negative reviews or just from bad choices and poor management, it's a show that should be looked upon as a guide to what successful jewelry trade fairs could be if they just listened to the needs of their exhibitors and attendees. I mean, after all, isn't that what everyone wants at the end of the day? Whether it's a customer, a family member, or a co-worker ... we really all just want to be heard.

The next edition of VicenzaOro in Vicenza, Italy, will be held Sept. 7-11.

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