

SWAROVSKI VARIATION IN PRODUCTION (VIP) PIECES

Continuing our series of Crystal Lodge VIP factsheets, we are taking a look at miscellaneous items including a variation to Kris Bear, a Christmas ornament and we check out non-animal and functional pieces with variations. We also feature some candleholders here, however, this is not the end of the story as there were design differences between some of the candleholders which were produced in Europe and USA. However, rather than tackle all those here, we have put all that information in a separate factsheet.

BAROQUE CANDLEHOLDER 121

Probably the most famous of the VIPs in terms of candleholders, the 121 or Baroque candleholder can be found with 3 different cuts to the base of the candleholder. These are diamond cut (version 1), honeycomb (version 2) and triangular (version 3). There is no documentation to support any theory about which order these were produced in. They were only available for a short time between 1983 and 1986.



L-R: 121 v1 (diamond cut), v2 (honeycomb cut), v3 (triangular cut)

CANDLEHOLDERS 127 (USA)

This candleholder can be found with either a rounded or sculpted holder as shown below.



CANDLEHOLDERS 131

The set of candleholder called 131 were produced in Europe as a set of 6, and there are 2 known base variations. One more pointed in comparison to the other one which has the same base as used for the mini owl, which is more rounded/flower shaped.



L-R: 131 candleholder with more pointed base and the rounded/flower shaped base.

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CANDLEHOLDER 135

The global or ball candleholder in the King size (60mm diameter) can be found with 2 slightly different looking tops to the candleholder, which can be either rounded or more sculpted. Hard to see on the photos below, but there is a difference – honest!



L-R: 135 Global/ball candleholder with rounded and more sculpted tops.

LARGE STAR CANDLEHOLDER 143

Another one which can be found with faceted or unfaceted ends to the “spines” – impossible to photograph, but they are quite different if you look at both versions together!



Large star candleholder 143 with faceted end cuts

CANDLEHOLDER WATERLILY LARGE

This candleholder was originally produced for the USA market with much smaller leaves on the base giving it a diameter at widest point of 4 ½”, whereas the globally available design which replaced it looks much wider as the bottom leaves are longer and gives a diameter of 5 ¼”.



L-R: Globally available version / version originally available in USA / and finally don't try this at home, the large, medium and small waterlilies in a stack!

THE GRAPE ESCAPE

Aside from the different grapes produced for USA market, which are documented in our Europe / USA factsheet, there are many differences documented on the European grapes, including some bunches of grapes which have 23 grapes while others have 24. There are differences between

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the gold and rhodium finishes on the underside of the stalks as well including texture, but the main difference is that for a short time, a completely rhodium version of grapes was available in Europe.



L-R: Grapes (Europe) gold and rhodium



L-R: Grapes (Europe) gold and rhodium to show leaf detail



L-R: 24 grapes in bunch, 23 grapes in bunch



L-R: Smooth finish on underside of rhodium and gold grapes

ORCHIDS PINK AND YELLOW

Introduced in 1996, the pink and yellow orchids came with a satin-effect pillow for display. The centre stones were very light indeed and were difficult to see on display. A quick design change introduced much darker central stones, we believe the pink orchid comes in 3 different colours, known as ultra-light, light and dark, whereas the yellow has 2 different colourways, light yellow and a dark, bordering on amber yellow.

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L-R: Ultra-light, light and dark centre pink orchids



L-R: Light yellow and dark yellow orchid

PINEAPPLES GIANT GOLD

Produced under one code number, the giant gold pineapple underwent a design change at some point during its early lifespan to become less rounded and more sculpted at the top of the pineapple. This made a slight difference to the height as well as the overall look of the piece.



L-R: Giant pineapple slender 6 ¼" to top of crystal and rounded 6" to top of crystal

PINEAPPLES LARGE GOLD

All produced under one code number, the large pineapple also underwent a design change at some point during its early lifespan to become less rounded and more sculpted – particularly noticeable at the top of the pineapple. Additionally, the pineapple can be found with hammered leaves (the more common variety) or smooth leaves which are the rarer version.



L-R: Pineapple large gold rounded and slender/sculpted version. Comparison of the hammered leaves and smooth leaves from above.

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PINEAPPLES LARGE RHODIUM

Both versions of the large rhodium pineapple carry the same code number and come with leaves which have either smooth or hammered finish.



L-R: Pineapple large rhodium hammered and smooth leaves. Comparison of the smooth and hammered leaves from above.

PINEAPPLE RHODIUM SMALL

In a similar way to the gold large pineapple, there was a design change to make this pineapple less rounded and more sculpted.



L-R: Rounded version of small rhodium pineapple, more sculpted version

KRIS BEAR WITH SKIS

Originally, the Kris Bear with skis did not come with the rounded base. We understand that very quickly it was modified to include a small round base for stability. It is believed that very few of the Kris Bears without base were ever sold.



L-R: Kris bear with skis (v1) no base, Kris Bear with skis (v2) with base

AEROPLANE

The aeroplane or airplane as it is sometimes known, this piece was designed by Adi Stocker and was in production from 1990 to 1999. A red wooden stand was also available for a time which has slots for the wheels to sit in. The aeroplane has been documented as being available with the

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propeller blade's bevelled edge either facing towards the plane or away from it. All down to the hand assembly process, of course and not strictly a variation, but something to look out for!



L-R: Aeroplane with bevelled edge outside and inside

OLD TIMER AUTOMOBILE / VINTAGE CAR

The old timer vintage car is a great favourite. Some examples can be found with the swan logo and word "Swarovski" imprinted onto the steering wheel, others just have the swan logo. Designed by Gabriele Stamey, the Old timer was in production from 1989 to 1995. Like the aeroplane, a red wooden stand was produced to go with the car, and this has slots for the wheels to sit in.



The Old timer automobile on its stand

SILVER CRYSTAL EXPRESS PASSENGER CAR

All the parts of the larger Silver Crystal train were designed by Gabriele Stamey. Originally, the train comprised just 3 pieces, a locomotive, a tender car and a passenger carriage. The first 3 components were available from 1988. Again, there was a red wooden stand on which the 3-piece train set could sit, with slots for the wheels. The train proved to be highly popular with collectors, and further carriages were produced to make it even longer, a petrol wagon with 3 little cylindrical tanks, a tipping wagon which actually does rotate – try it (gently) and finally a tank (or tanker) wagon, and of course that meant a new wooden stand was required to accommodate the additional carriages.

The only documented variation on the train pieces is the passenger carriage, and this is all to do with the placement of the windows – so, again its not strictly a variation as no different components were used as the difference is caused by the hand assembly process. The carriage can be found in 3 formats - windows spaced equally apart, in pairs or in "extreme" pairs (ie very close together pairs).

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L-R: Train passenger carriage evenly spaced windows, paired windows, extreme paired windows



The full train set (locomotive, tender car, passenger car, petrol wagon, tipping wagon and petrol wagon)



L-R: Train track (for 3 carriages), Train track (for 6 carriages)

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT 1991

The very first of the annual Christmas ornament series was produced in 1991. This ornament has 2 varieties which are slightly different due to the type of metal hanger used in the European and USA markets. The packaging was also very different, with the traditional triangular packaging available to Europe, but the USA version was presented in a square box. The only thing that was identical was the crystal itself!



L-R: The European ornament with gold textured hanger and traditional triangular box and certificate. The USA and European ornaments side by side

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The USA ornament with silver smooth hanger and the square box and certificate.

**CIGARETTE HOLDERS, LIGHTERS AND ASHTRAYS
GOLD POLISHED AND RHODIUM POLISHED AND BRUSHED**

For the final part of this factsheet, we're going right back to the beginning and taking a look at vintage smoking accessories, these items can be found in both gold and rhodium finishes, plus there were polished and brushed finishes on the rhodium items.



L-R: Gold polished cigarette holder, lighter and ashtray / Rhodium polished cigarette holder (2 part), cigarette lighter (2 part) and ashtray



L-R: Cigarette holder in rhodium brushed finish and lighter in rhodium polished finish.

CIGARETTE LIGHTER CLEAR

The clear crystal cigarette lighter made from faceted clear crystal with a rhodium top has 2 different metal tops as illustrated below. It is believed the bevelled design was the second one to be produced.



L-R: Cigarette lighter in clear crystal with 2 different metal tops v1 on the left and the more bevelled v2 on the right.