

# Lisa Nik



## Local Designer, Lisa Nik, Opens Up About Her Inspirations

For over a decade, Lisa Nik has combined colored gemstones, diamonds and other exquisite elements to create inspired and fashionable jewelry for all occasions. Zachary's Jewelers was one of the first stores to carry the collection and we recently spoke to her about her start in jewelry design, her predictions for the future, and why Maryland holds a special place in her heart.

### How did you become a jewelry designer?

After graduating college, I wanted a career that combined creativity, business and travel. My first job was with an Italian jewelry company that established an operation in New York and there I realized developing and designing new product categories was my passion. With instincts and experience, I turned many ideas into best sellers. Fifteen years later, I started my own company.

### As a world traveler, how do the places you go and people you meet inspire you?

One of the most important things is listening to the women I design for. By better understanding what they want, I constantly improve my brand. Many of the places that carry my collection are in resorts and my use of blue gemstones represents that. The blue topaz and aquamarine stones attract those vacationing near water. When I was in Florence, I bought beautiful stationery and when I created the Twisted Wires collection, I had that in mind. The Twisted Wires also has Grecian influences, perhaps from my time in Greece. My love of colored gemstones began on my first trip to Brazil. I walked through halls of gemstones that looked like candy. The

tourmalines and aquamarine were so vivid, I didn't want to look away. I fully understood then what color could evoke and decided to use this in my collection.

### What is your connection to Maryland and how would you describe women's style here?

I was born in Washington, DC and grew up in Rockville, MD and find the tastes of women in this area to be elegant and refined. The amount of professional women here has inspired me to create jewelry that works during the workday and for evening wear. Often, jewelry is the only bold statement woman can make dressing for work, so I always keep that in mind. But my jewelry isn't just for professional women. It works for women of all ages. Mothers and grandmothers often buy it for their daughters, daughters in law, and granddaughters.

### Are there any upcoming projects you can share?

Women love colored stones and I'll continue developing one-of-a-kind pieces that use colored gemstones from around the world. I'll experiment with different cuts and shapes to expand the Rocks Collection with fresh interpretations. I'm also interested in yellow gold, so I'll be offering bangles, earrings, and chains that work well with the Rocks Collection. The Asymmetric Collection is perhaps my most unusual collection. It lets me experiment with non-matching shapes and colors to create truly unique pieces. I'll continue to use opals, tourmalines, kyanite, sapphires, and peridot that appeal to gemstone connoisseurs and collectors.

*Piece pictured in middle: Rocks Collection 18K white gold oval link bracelet with blue topaz center.  
Piece pictured in top right: Asymmetric Collection 18K white gold earrings with tourmalines and diamonds.*

Favorite vacation spot:  
Maui

Essential travel accessory:  
Hermès scarf

Guilty pleasure:  
Hair blowouts

Friday night pastime:  
Movie with my son Alex

Favorite Jeans:  
J Brand

Beauty tip:  
Triple Sec Dry Spray  
by Drybar

Favorite cocktail:  
Kir Royale



*Sparkle Collection 18K rose gold diamond bezel chain with signature fleur de lis clasp.*



*Twisted Wires Collection 18K rose gold cushion pendant with diamonds and morganite center.*



*Twisted Wires Collection 18K white gold oval ring with diamonds and blue topaz center.*

