

SPECIAL EDITION



Foto: Bex Media / Curt Themessl

L. to R.: Ramin Monajemi (Bex Media), Erfan Norooz, Alexander Putz (alexanders Investments), Thomas Schröck (Then Natural Gem), Walter Hell-Höflinger (Gold&Co.), Robert Gillinger (Börse Express)

Alternative Investments in Focus

On December 12, 2024, Ramin Monajemi hosted an exclusive event at the Bel Étage on Universitätsring. Guests gained insights into strategies for investments, precious metals, gemstones, and cryptocurrencies while enjoying exquisite snacks and a champagne tasting. The elegant atmosphere encouraged lively discussions and valuable exchanges. The evening offered a perfect setting for networking and inspiration. More details inside.

EVENT IMPRESSION VIDEO



ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

THE NATURAL GEM

Gemstones: The Investment of the Future

Gemstones are among the oldest and most enduring investment assets in the world. They are compact, easy to transport, and independent of traditional financial markets. With over 30 years of experience and a global supplier network, The Natural Gem GmbH offers investors access to natural, untreated gemstones and innovative solutions like the Habsburg Gemstone Token – the world's first 100% asset-backed gemstone investment.

Ramin Monajemi

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Gemstones are a unique and timeless investment asset that have fascinated people for centuries. In uncertain economic times, when traditional financial instruments face challenges, gemstones provide an appealing alternative: they are small, portable, and exhibit virtually no correlation with other asset classes. Based in

„Natural, untreated gemstones are not only captivating treasures of nature but also stable, independent investments that stand the test of time.“

Thomas Schröck

Vienna, The Natural Gem GmbH specializes in natural, untreated gemstones and is a leading provider in this exclusive market. Only 3% of gemstones traded worldwide are both natural and untreated, a critical factor for their rarity and value stability. Rubies, sapphires, and emeralds, in particular, are considered prime investment-grade stones, with annual value growth rates averaging between 5% and 8%. For instance, 1 kilogram of fine rubies can reach a market value of approximately EUR 240 million, while 1 kilogram of gold is valued at just EUR 80,000. This high value concentration makes gemstones an ideal asset for investors seeking physical, independent, and reliable investments.

The key to a successful gemstone investment lies in proper selection and certification. The Natural Gem GmbH exclu-



Thomas Schröck during his presentation

sively collaborates with internationally recognized gemological laboratories such as SSEF, GIA, and Gübelin. These certifications guarantee the quality of the gemstones, providing transparency regarding color, clarity, cut, and origin. For sustainability-focused investors, the traceability and ethical sourcing of the gemstones are also ensured.

A groundbreaking innovation from The Natural Gem GmbH is the Habsburg Gemstone Token – the world's first 100% asset-backed token supported by gemstones. This unique solution allows investors to enter the market with as little as EUR 100, investing in a curated portfolio of valuable gemstones. The token's value is regularly adjusted based on updated appraisals, and it can be exchanged at any time for physical gemstones, ensuring maximum flexibility. Storing gemstones is straightforward and secure. Whether in insured vaults, duty-free warehouses, or as wearable investment jewelry, The Natural Gem GmbH offers tailored solutions for safeguarding assets. The company also assists investors with resale and individualized insurance for their gemstone portfolios.

With over three decades of experience, a global network of suppliers, and innovative investment opportunities, The Natural Gem GmbH opens the door to one of today's most exciting asset classes. Natural, untreated gemstones not only offer significant long-term value growth but also unparalleled independence and mobility for modern investors.

Find more information about The Natural Gem [HERE](#), and the presentation slides for the talk [HERE](#).

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GOLD&CO

Gold: Stability and Security for Every Generation

For millennia, gold has symbolized stability and security. In times of economic uncertainty and inflation, it remains one of the most reliable investments. Walter Hell-Höflinger, MBA, founder and CEO of Gold&Co., a court-certified precious metals expert and European Gemmologist (FEEG), explains how to securely purchase gold, detect counterfeits, and build a long-term investment strategy.

Ramin Momajemi

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Gold is not just a precious metal—it is a symbol of financial stability and long-term value. In turbulent economic times, gold continues to prove its importance as a hedge against inflation and currency devaluation. Walter Hell-Höflinger, MBA, founder and CEO of Gold&Co., is a court-certified precious metals expert and European Gemmologist (FEEG). With decades of experience, he debunks widespread myths and highlights gold's enduring role as a safe and strategic investment.

One common misconception is that gold is unattractive because it does not generate interest. However, history proves otherwise: since the 1970s, gold prices have risen by over 900%, offering consistent protection against inflation.

„Gold is not a short-term speculation but a timeless asset that endures for generations, offering stability and security in uncertain times.“

Walter Hell-Höflinger

While other assets falter during economic crises, gold remains stable, reinforcing its reputation as a conservative and secure investment.

Another key issue concerns counterfeit gold, with scams becoming increasingly sophisticated, from brass coins to tungsten-filled bars. Walter Hell-Höflinger emphasizes the importance of purchasing gold only from certified dealers. Advanced verification methods such as ultrasound testing, X-ray fluorescence, and magnetic scales are essential to detect

forgeries. At Gold&Co., customer safety is paramount, ensuring every transaction is secure and transparent.

Strategic planning is critical for building a successful gold portfolio. Walter Hell-Höflinger advises buying gold in units that align with individual financial capacities. A consistent, long-term purchasing strategy minimizes the impact of short-term price fluctuations, creating lasting



Walter Hell-Höflinger during his presentation

value. Gold is not a speculative investment but a reliable store of wealth, passed down through generations.

Gold's relevance in the modern financial system is undeniable. As trust in fiat currencies declines and central banks worldwide increase their gold reserves, gold remains a timeless constant that transcends economic and political uncertainty. Unlike paper currency, gold's value cannot be manipulated or printed—it stands as an enduring symbol of security and independence.

With over 130 years of family-driven expertise, Gold&Co. is a trusted leader in the precious metals market. Operating from multiple locations in Vienna, the company offers unparalleled transparency, quality, and personalized guidance for safe, long-term gold investments. Walter Hell-Höflinger and his team ensure that gold remains the cornerstone of financial security, even in uncertain times.

Find more information about Gold&Co. [HERE](#), and the presentation slides for the talk [HERE](#).

2025: Seizing Opportunities in a Stabilizing Market

The economic landscape of 2025 offers promising opportunities for investors. With key interest rates declining, inflation easing, and market volatility moderating, the outlook for growth is improving. Despite lingering geopolitical uncertainties, stable labor markets and the strength of global economic alliances provide a solid foundation for strategic investment. Image: Alexander Putz (alexanders Investments) during his presentation

The economic outlook for 2025 offers investors promising opportunities as key interest rates begin to decline, signaling a shift from restrictive monetary policies toward growth-friendly conditions. Easing inflation provides additional support for economic recovery, creating a stable environment for businesses and consumers alike. Stock markets in Europe and the United States show signs of stabilization, with volatility indices pointing to reduced uncertainty. This moderation in market fluctuations boosts investor confidence, laying the foundation for strategic long-term investments. At the same time, global economic alliances such as NAFTA, the EU, and RCEP remain key drivers of global GDP growth, opening opportunities for diversified investments across major regions. While geopolitical risks persist, their immediate impact on market sentiment appears less pronounced, as economies adapt to evolving global challenges. The labor market, though slightly loosening, remains stable, providing a strong pillar for economic resilience. In this environment of improving growth and declining inflation, 2025 represents a critical window for investors. By focusing on emerging trends and aligning strategies with global economic dynamics, it is possible to navigate uncertainties and capitalize on the opportunities presented by a recovering global economy.



Cryptocurrencies: Innovation or Risk?

The cryptocurrency sector is experiencing unprecedented growth: 40% of American adults now own crypto, up from 30% last year. Despite volatility and regulatory challenges, adoption continues to rise. Digital assets hold the potential to revolutionize financial markets, offering new opportunities in an increasingly connected world. Image: Erfan Norooz during his presentation

Cryptocurrencies have evolved from a niche innovation into a global phenomenon. In 2024, crypto ownership in the United States reached 40%, with female participation rising significantly from 18% to 29%. This surge highlights increasing awareness and growing trust in digital assets among a broader population. Bitcoin, launched in 2009, has reshaped financial markets by enabling peer-to-peer transactions with transparency, lower fees, and faster transfers. These benefits have made cryptocurrencies particularly attractive to the unbanked population. However, challenges such as volatility, regulatory uncertainties, and hacking risks persist. Protecting private keys and utilizing secure ledgers remain critical. The introduction of Bitcoin and Ethereum ETFs marked a turning point, providing institutional investors with compliant channels for participation. El Salvador's adoption of Bitcoin as legal tender and initiatives by companies like PayPal and Apple further accelerate mainstream acceptance. Despite the inherent risks of emerging technologies, cryptocurrencies present opportunities reminiscent of the tech boom of the 1990s. Bitcoin, as the best-performing asset of the decade, exemplifies the immense potential and transformative power of digital assets in the modern financial landscape.



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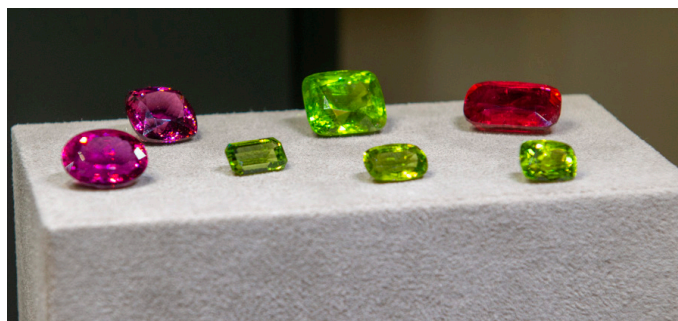


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